

1857



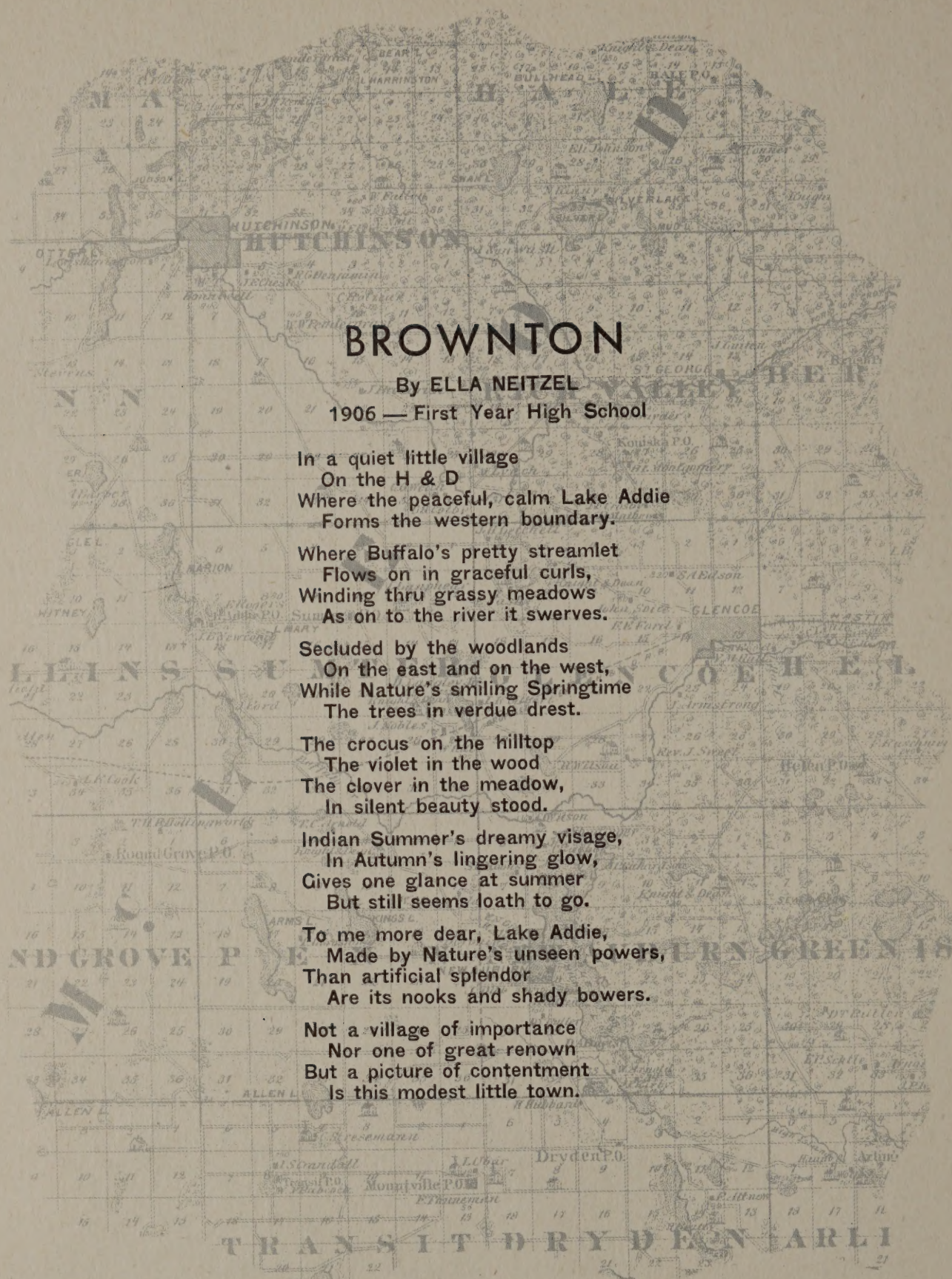
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**A CENTURY OF
ACHIEVEMENT**

Brownton Centennial



BROWNTON

By ELLA NEITZEL

1906 — First Year High School

In a quiet little village
On the H & D
Where the peaceful, calm Lake Addie
Forms the western boundary.

Where Buffalo's pretty streamlet
Flows on in graceful curls,
Winding thru grassy meadows
As on to the river it swerves.

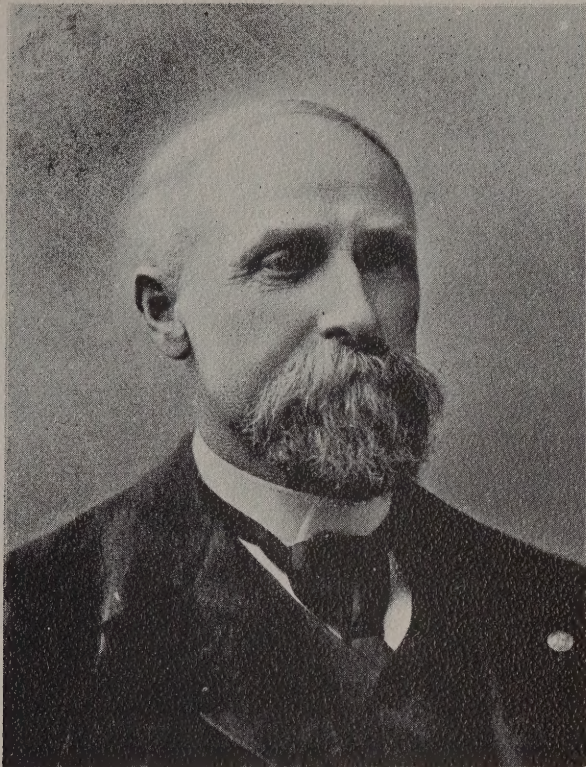
Secluded by the woodlands
On the east and on the west,
While Nature's smiling Springtime
The trees in verdure drest.

The crocus on the hilltop
The violet in the wood
The clover in the meadow,
In silent beauty stood.

Indian Summer's dreamy visage,
In Autumn's lingering glow,
Gives one glance at summer
But still seems loath to go.

To me more dear, Lake Addie,
Made by Nature's unseen powers,
Than artificial splendor
Are its nooks and shady bowers.

Not a village of importance
Nor one of great renown
But a picture of contentment
Is this modest little town.



CAPTAIN ALONZO L. BROWN

THE FOUNDER of Brownton, Captain Alonzo Leighton Brown, was born November 8, 1838 at Auburn, New York. In October 1857 he arrived at New Auburn, staying there long enough to name the town after his birthplace, then moved with his brother Charles to the claim of their father, Samuel B. Brown, in Penn.

Both men answered the call for volunteers and in September 1861 enlisted in Company "B", 4th Minnesota Volunteer Infantry, participating in all the battles of that regiment, including Vicksburg. At Montgomery, Alabama he met and married Bedina Savage. He and his bride arrived on May 3rd, 1866 and settled on the land he had bought of John Pollock.

They experienced all the vicissitudes and hardships of the early settlers and lived to see a thriving village bearing their name. They were the parents of four children: Katie and Eugene who died in infancy, Alice (Mrs. George Butler), and Lola (Mrs. Hallan Ives). Grandchildren were Ivan, Hallan, and twin girls, Corinne and Viola Butler.

To the end of his life Mr. Brown kept an active interest in civic and fraternal organizations; also serving as Brownton's first mayor.

Besides carrying on a law office and farming interests he found time to write an exhaustive "History of the Fourth Regiment of Minnesota Infantry Volunteers" and also a "History of Brownton" published in "Brownton Illustrated."

On October 11, 1904 Brownton lost its "First Citizen" in the passing of Captain A. L. Brown.

The Founder

Bedina E. Savage was born at Kanturk, County Cook, Ireland January 8, 1839, a member of a family of 14 children. At nine years of age she came to Montgomery, Alabama, where her father, Prof. Patrick Savage, had charge of a school.

Naturally their sympathy was with the South in the conflict; several of her brothers serving in the Confederate Army. But after the fighting had ceased her interest in a certain Northern soldier developed into a romantic love affair and she found herself bidding farewell to her family and a life of comparative ease and venturing into the unknown with her soldier husband, Captain Alonzo L. Brown.

Sorrows came to her in the loss of her first two children and a brother who had come here to regain his health. Her home burned and nothing was saved excepting the first piano that came into this area, one book out of the collection she had brought from her father's library, two pieces of furniture, an oil painting and a cameo pin. But nothing daunted, she was soon living in a better house, teaching the District School in her kitchen.

She was a life-long member of the Episcopal Church, a charter member of Adah Chapter of the Eastern Star, of Chicamanga Circle of the G.A.R. and a member of the "Ladies' Social Club."

Perhaps the outstanding trait that lives in the hearts of her friends was her southern hospitality. Her door always swung in welcome to one and all. In her death, on Nov. 15, 1915, the community mourned the passing of a truly great lady.

MRS. ALONZO L. BROWN



Contributed by Mrs. Ezetta Plaisance



BROWNTON, MINNESOTA — TAKEN IN 1904

OUR FIRST 100 YEARS

FEW MINNESOTA towns have a more interesting background than Brown-ton which has its origin in the "Lake Addie Settlement." In the earliest state records it was called "The Grimshaw Settlement" but the name "Lake Addie" was given the lake in honor of Addie Hoag of Minneapolis, who visited the Grimshaw family the winter of 1856 and '57 and from that "Lake Addie Settlement" derived its name.

In the spring of 1856 a group of men left Philadelphia for Minneapolis. They were R. E. Grimshaw, William White, David Craig and John Pollock, accompanied by George G. White and D. R. Bartlett who were not homesteaders. At Pittsburgh they were joined by the James Jenks family.

Arriving at Minneapolis they heard such glowing accounts of the Lake Addie region that they went on to Glencoe with Joseph Lewis. At this point James Jenks branched off to New Auburn and the others proceeded to the east side of Lake Addie where the four men took claims.

By common consent Mr. Grimshaw was given first choice of the land which had been laid out in such a way each would have a timber lot and tillable area. He chose what was later known as the Shilling farm; Mr. White took the parcel called the Sturdivant farm where Orville Rickert now lives; Mr. Craig's land joined Mr. White's on the north, the Kruse place, and Mr. Pollock's on the south, part of the present town site. Later Joseph Lewis pre-empted on the south of Mr. Pollock but soon left.

The winter of '56 and '57 was a very severe one for the pioneers. For 40 days they did not see the sun. One woman told of not seeing another woman for three months. Such experiences added to other hardships discouraged them and by the end of 1859 many of the original settlers had sold their improvements and left.

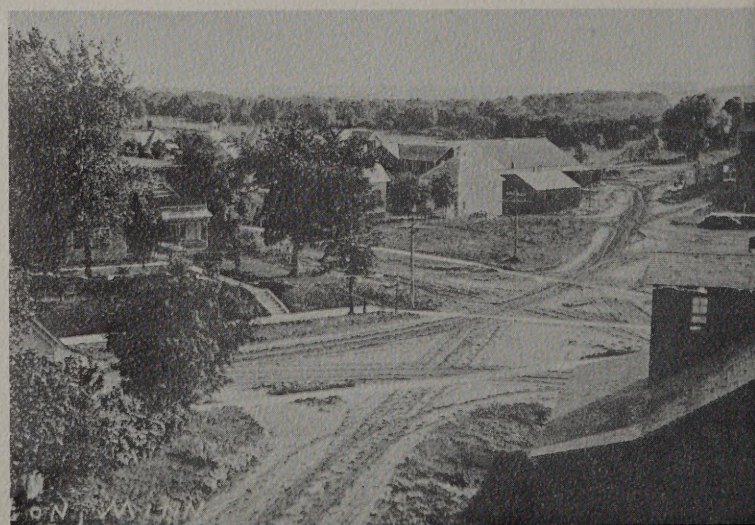
Among those to take over these claims were Alonzo L. Brown who bought out Mr. Pollock; Charles and Decatur Sturdivant Mr. White, and after passing through several transfers the Grimshaw farm became the property of John Shilling and thus we account for the Brown, Shilling and Sturdivant Additions on our tax statements.

The interest in education that has always characterized this village was manifested from the start. As soon as the problem of food and shelter was taken care of, a school was established in the Pollock house, taught by Mrs. Luette Pollock.

Religious services, while not regular, were held in the different homes, conducted by ministers from nearby settlements.

McLeod County was organized in March 1856. Perhaps it is significant that the first thing they did was to make provision for exercising their right as American citizens. The area was divided into three voting precincts—Hutchinson, Glencoe and Lake Addie Settlement, its voting place to be the Grimshaw house. They evidently appreciated their voting privileges.

BROWNTON LOOKING WEST — 1907



In 1858 the four townships designated as townships 114 and 115, Ranges 29 and 30 now known as Round Grove, Collins, Sumter and Penn, were combined and named Penn Township, name chosen by vote. The first town meeting was held May 11, 1858, the day Minnesota became a state. Sixteen votes were cast at that meeting. It was decided to raise 75 dollars for expenses for the ensuing year. The assessor was instructed to get a plat of the four towns included in Penn and it was voted to accept from Mr. Grimshaw a book in which to keep the town records.

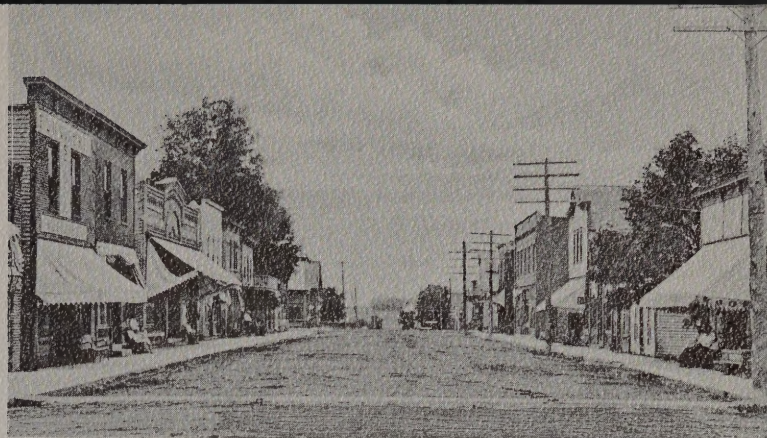
In 1866 Township 115, Range 30 withdrew from Penn and organized as Collins; in 1868 Township 115, Range 29 withdrew and organized as Sumter, taking the name after Fort Sumter; in 1870 Township 114 Range 30 withdrew and organized as Round Grove, named for the peculiar shape of a grove in the area.

The names of the first voters were: R. E. Grimshaw, A. Langley, James S. Chandler, Jerimah Nobles, R. J. Marvin, Wm. J. White, David Bartlett, David Craig, Geo. W. White, Wm. R. Marvin, James B. Newcomb, Samuel B. James, Alonzo H. Jennison, John Pollock, David H. Pollock, and George Benson.

With the passing of Mrs. Grimshaw the summer of 1857 occurred the first death in the community. "A very estimable lady, greatly beloved by all".

In 1859 Mr. Grimshaw moved to Minneapolis and the place was occupied by several different families, among them a Mr. Halleck, brother of General Halleck, the ill-fated Samuel White family, while their house was being built on the west side of Lake Addie, Andrew Thomson and William Sherburne.

As a typical case of the hardships the pioneers had to endure we can take the story of Mr. Sherburne. The fall of 1869 was very rainy and wheat got wet in the stacks. He tore them down, dried out the bundles, threshed it and spread it out in



MAIN STREET NORTH

the barn to dry. But it spoiled and he fed it to the hogs. It turned warm very early in the spring and Mr. Sherburne had more bad luck. He had killed the hogs and most of the meat spoiled before he could get it to market. He soon left these parts but calamities continued for those that stayed.

The summer was very dry and hot and prairie fires were so numerous the settlers kept barrels of water with mops and pails on their wagons. This fire fighting equipment was inadequate. Some houses burned and many lost their crops.

Horse thieves ranged the prairies. Farmers slept with their loaded guns handy but even then many horses were driven off and since horses were scarce the loss was keenly felt.

The hot summer was followed by a very severe winter. On the 18th of February, 1872 occurred the worst storm the settlers had experienced up to that time. Farmers ran short of feed for their stock, household supplies ran low and they had hard work getting through the winter. But in January, 1873 came the real blizzard that still holds rank as the most disastrous in the history of the Northwest.

It started out as a beautiful winter day and many were caught away from home. Some froze to death and others, lucky enough to survive in snowbanks or any make-shift shelter were three days without food or warmth. The Samuel Browns carried 20 wash tubs of snow out of their house. One stable was so full of snow it buried their horses. Clothes lines were fastened to the door, then tied around the

A VIEW OF BROWNTON IN 1904





JAMES BOHN STORE

Left to right: Otto Sell, Alvin Voight, Lydia Biebighauser Peik, James Bohn, August Knick

waist of the man who ventured to outside buildings to look after the stock. He could find his way back by following the rope.

Getting supplies was a serious problem, much of it carried on foot from Glencoe — a mere matter of a 24-mile jaunt. To quote Mr. Brown, "A settler at Lake Addie, in company with a friend, walked to Glencoe to trade some fur for a gallon of molasses at Mr. Frazier's store. That genial gentleman invited the two men to join him in a social glass, which was repeated before they left. "Well", said the elder, "I guess we'd better be going home, it's getting late." So he put his cane through the handle of the jug, slung it over his shoulder and started. Crossing a slough west of Glencoe his foot slipped, his hand flew up and the jug crashed on the ice. Much distressed they returned for another jug of molasses. This time the younger man, in order to make it safe, put his belt through the handle, buckled it around his body, and put his arm around the precious jug. Arriving at the fatal spot and stopping to bemoan their loss, the young man's foot slipped, the handle pulled off and both jug and contents shared the fate of the first." We would like to know the end of that test of perseverance and endurance but the story stops there.



Added to the discomforts, an epidemic of smallpox raged, causing deaths in several families of the Lake Addie district, including the Townsend family. They were buried in the wooded pasture just across the road from the Clarence Heil house.

For several summers a scourge of black birds descended. Whole families spent the days in the fields with guns, tin pans, scarecrows, and when nothing else was available children ran through the grain flapping their arms and shouting. The life of a pioneer child was not all playtime. In 1874 the advance guard of grasshoppers moved in and for four consecutive seasons wiped out the crops.

The Indian outbreak kept them living in constant fear. At a moments notice they fled, feeling their way over prairies in the darkness of nights, sometimes in drenching rains, carrying their children and guns, afraid to even whisper. The tragic fate of the Samuel White family

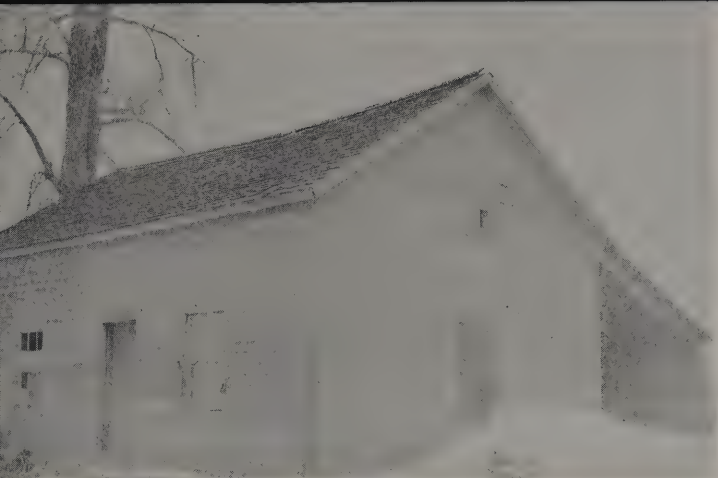


SONS OF THE PIONEERS

Sitting, left to right: Chas. Evans, George Ames, Wilbur Root, John West. Standing: Marion West, Jim Arnold, Elmer Lee, Ben Lee, Herb Lee, George Ocobock, Ava Wilson, William Klawitter, Donald West

just across the lake filled this neighborhood with terror. With others the Whites had gone to Arlington but a few days lull in the activities of the Indians raised false hopes and on that fateful morning, against the advice of their friends they started home in high spirits only to meet their deaths at the hands of the savages. One member of the family escaped. He was away from home.

By the end of '56 and '57 there was little unoccupied land left, homes were well established and time was found for social life. The first recorded event was when George and William White and Alonzo Brown attended a "grand jamboree dance" at New Auburn. The building was small and the company large. A hundred years! And still going strong!



THE SAMUEL WHITE RESIDENCE

The house where the Samuel White family was killed during the Indian outbreak

"January 2, 1871 the people in this end of McLeod county had a dance at Ford's where Herbert Zaski now lives. Forty-seven couples were present beside the young uns. We had a picnic supper and plenty of room though the house was very small." Mr. Brown adds: "In 1875 a Fourth of July celebration was held at the Grimshaw place. Mr. Sturdivant's stove was used to make tea and coffee, tables were made by turning wagon boxes upside down and we all had a glorious time. At night we went to Ford's and had a good old fashioned dance. All pronounced it a great success because when the day was over we were all near our homes and had spent no money."

Again on July 4th, 1876, when the Centennial Celebration was nation-wide our celebration was held at Grimshaw's. We erected swings, made tables of wagon boxes, borrowed the Sturdivant stove and had a grand good time and when we had celebrated enough were near to our homes.

Before the seats were nailed down in our new school house we had a dance Sept. 22, 1876, another Nov. 3rd. The next day the seats were nailed in place. No more dances in the school house."

Then the little red school house was used for church and Sunday school, revival meetings, as a meeting place of the literary society, known as "The Lyceum", singing

G.A.R. DRUM CORPS

This corps performed at the Lytle Post G.A.R. celebration early in the century



school, writing school, spelling bees, even funerals. For some reason the school board decided that religion and education did not mix so anything that did not pertain to "readin', writin', and arithmetic" had to move out.

But by that time the Odd Fellows Hall had been erected on the corner where the new fire hall now stands and was available for church services, dances, lodges — any organization that needed housing. Probably the most thrilling event for the young pioneers was the first Christmas tree. For any of those present who are now living, it is still the most beautiful tree they ever saw, hung with popcorn and cranberry strings, walnuts covered with tin foil carefully collected from plug tobacco boxes and lighted with real candles. It was a perfect fire trap and packed to the limit. The next year in the same place there were three trees; the third year a boat with sails. That same building served as a primary school room and later was moved onto Pollock Ave. (Main Street) to be used as a post office until it burned, carrying with it memories that no other building in town could arouse.

There was a traveling salesman who made the town periodically. He could fiddle and call off for dances. Word would get around "Holcomb's in town" and in a short time the old hall was alive with activity. Another attraction was an Italian with a hand organ and a performing bear. He entertained on the streets with his tin cup and bear in the afternoon and played for a dance at night. But with the passing of the itinerant performers there was still our Dick Barnes to fall back on, for he was once a Brownston resident and he could fiddle and call. He is now a resident of Stewart, Minn.

On Oct. 12, 1877 the Republican District Convention was being held at Andrew Hall's in Round Grove. Word was brought that a corps of railroad surveyors had pitched their tents in Glencoe to begin on the extension of the road west. By noon of the 17th they had reached Lake Addie; by October 24th real construction had begun and by the 20th of June, 1878, the first engine and cars had crossed the lake. Laurence Gillick, Sr., who had moved his family from Glencoe onto the farm at the south end of the lake, recently known as the Bill Rickert farm, was appointed one of the appraisers of the right of way damages along the railroad for the first 30 miles west of Glencoe. Little he thought that one of his boys, Jim, whom he was sending to the little red school, would one day be the executive vice president of that very line — the Milwaukee road.



SCENES FROM THE TRAIN WRECK — AUGUST 23, 1880

With the completion of the railroad the boom started. Mr. Brown's house was moved from the grove on the west where Mr. Caven now lives, to its present site, the home of Mr. Cole. On June 29th a carload of lumber arrived for the Strickland and Baker store, now the Brownnton Hardware. July 1st the townsite of Brownnton was filed. Mr. Brown named it "Brownnton" for his brother Charles who lost his life at the battle of Corinth.

In those days as now there was more or less rivalry between neighbors. John Schilling ("Pap" to everybody) not to be outdone, plotted a piece of land two blocks east of Grimshaw Avenue, from the Congregational church corner to the Immanuel Lutheran church, thence north to the creek, and called it "Lake Addie", and thus it stood until 1886, when the village was incorporated. So now we have the very unique situation — a town within a town; Lake Addie village within the village of Brownnton. This is recognized in the deeds of property included within the two block limit. John Hanson from Henderson was the first to settle on the new townsite, Lake Addie. He built a house, part of which is the garage on the place which is now owned by Mr. Kulas, and started a blacksmith business. He was a smith six days of the week and a Methodist minister on the seventh. Services were held in his home. James Mathson hauled the first load of lumber in and built the house now occupied by Henry Lickfett.

From then on things happened fast. 1878 was an eventful year — a year of "firsts". First family moved onto the townsite, first train went through, first general store, lumber yard, wheat warehouse, first load of wheat marketed (60 cents a bushel), first carload shipped out, post office established.

1879 was just as busy a year. Jan. 1st, first mail car went through, a Sunday school was started, the lot where the "Cozy Corner" now stands was sold for \$50.00, O. R. Schmid built and operated the business, now the West Hardware, Joseph Rolf started a cobbler's shop, easily located by a big golden boot swinging in the breeze, two elevators were built, Strickland and Bakers, and Crahens, drug store of Paul Pfenger, now the Seeland building, dwelling house now occupied by E. W. West and the house now owned by Mrs. George Rolf.

In 1800 the first resident doctor, Dr. W. H. Thurmond came, the present drug business was brought here by J. R. Bell, a harness shop, billiard hall, meat market, lumber yard, wagon shop, Zimmerman's general store (not the present firm).

At one time Main Street boasted six saloons. There were no prohibition laws or restrictions: a man could drink all he could pay for and start out on the highway with comparative safety to himself and others. There might not be much sense on the driver's seat but horse sense could be depended upon to get him home — not always, though. Once a team became frightened and took off across the fields, upsetting the wagon box. When the man came to himself he had an unpleasant half hour. He was in total darkness and anywhere he could feel there was nothing but wood. He wondered how long anybody could live, buried alive. Even when he extricated himself there was nothing but a starry sky and unfamiliar landmarks.

Transportation in the early days was by means of an ox team and lumber wagon with a board for a seat — slow means of travel. The next step was a team of horses with a spring seat which was a luxury. As times grew better it was a man's pride

to drive a spankin' team hitched to a carriage which had cost him \$75.00 or \$100.00. Then followed the first automobile to the present model, costing several thousand dollars, and demanding better roads on which to travel. Once the road to Glencoe was north to Engelsmiers corner and east to Sumter. We have progressed from the dirt, to the gravel to the Yellowstone Trail to Highway 212.

Occasionally some excitement would occur to break the humdrum. In 1880 was the railroad collision. A freight train was unloading at the depot when another one from the east got out of control and struck the caboose of the first. Mr. Patten of Lake Marion was killed and two others died later from the injuries. A head-on collision occurred just west of town causing a death. Burglars blew the safe to pieces in the J. R. Bell & Co. store. Lanterns soon were appearing from every direction, guns were popping and so much commotion that the robbers fled, leaving their plunder behind. In quite recent times burglars had no better luck when they tried to rob the First State Bank and Henry Seeland drove them off single-handed. Another "rousing" event at midnight was when the boiler exploded and blew the front out of the power house and the engineer across the street.

About the first village improvements were sidewalks. Since it was "pay-as-you-go", strictest economy was observed. A few busy streets had two parallel strips of board, grass growing between, otherwise a path sufficed. A man did not come out in the morning with a shovel to clear a cement walk. Instead he carried a tea kettle of boiling water to thaw out the pump.

The type of illumination has gone through considerable change. Everybody had a lantern, kept it in trim and by the faint glimmer here and there knew when others were abroad. Then came the corner lamp post supporting a kerosene lamp. Every night at dusk the marshall could be seen going the rounds with his stepladder. Then the early electric lights to the present, when we can see the lights of Brown-ton from miles away.



J. S. WEST



WEST HARNESS SHOP

Original Businesses Still Operating

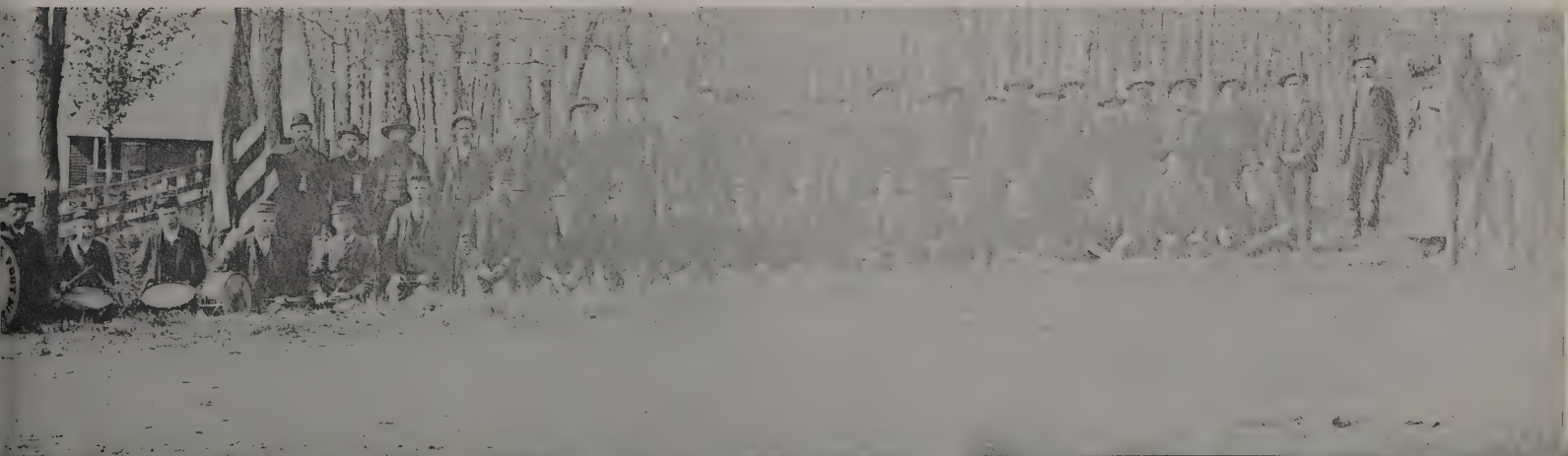
Of the original businesses established in Brown-ton, four are still in operation.

Oscar Schmid and Louis Kalb started a hardware store April 17, 1879. By 1889 both men had passed away and the business has been run since by four generations of Wests: J. P., M. B., Eugene and Calvin West. It is the only one of the four that is doing business in the same building where it began. It is now known as "The West Hardware."

In 1880 John R. Bell opened a drug store in a building next to the hardware. D. Y. Butler entered into partnership and for some time it was Bell and Butler, then Butler and Bolles in the building on the corner of Pollock and Nelson Avenues. After several changes of short duration it was taken over by T. F. Damack. After his death in 1934, William Scrimgeour became the owner and in 1949 moved it to its present quarters in the Clinic Building.

The harness business was started by Fred Korth, February 1880, in a building on Grimshaw Avenue near the park. But the trend for business seemed to be Pollock Avenue so he moved his building to its present site where Geo. Ueckers has his dry cleaning establishment. In 1885 he

THE LYTLE POST G.A.R. — TAKEN ABOUT 1893





REDMANN BUILDING

sold to John S. West who conducted it for 34 years. In order to give his entire time to his hay business, which had grown to the point where he employed from eight to sixteen men, he sold his harness business to Adolph Redmann in March, 1919. He, with his son Magnus, has continued a 77-year old business but in the brick building on the corner of "Main Street and Trail 212."

Another business that has stayed in the same family for 77 years is that founded by John Knoerr in 1880. His first blacksmith shop stood near the site of the Knoerr home, which is really one of the show places of our town. The substantial brick building is embellished with beautiful iron work which with the iron fence was the handiwork of the owner. Bill Knoerr still carries on from where his father left off in the blacksmith shop on Grimshaw Avenue.

Lake Addie

During the past fifty years Lake Addie has been changed from one lake to three. The time was when we went around the lake instead of across. The old road ran south out of town, beyond the Pool (later Gaulke) place, then turned west skirting the hill and coming out about where it would meet No. 15. Later it was shortened by passing through the Raymond Rickert farm and putting in a bridge across the south end as it is at present. The only real short cut was to walk across the railroad bridge which was a wooden trestle.

This was not too safe for the railroad made a compound curve through town and the view east was cut off. An on-coming train was not visible.

A town resident, Mrs. Bancroft, had been to the Harmon Huffman place for a jar of butter and was halfway across the bridge when a through freight came bearing down under full speed. She could reach neither end of the bridge so she stretched out on the ties between the rails and edge and let the train pass over. Since she weighed about two hundred pounds it was a pretty tight fit on a shaking bridge. Her escape was considered a miracle but what seemed to concern her most was not the danger but "I lost my jar of butter and new sun bonnet in the lake."

The Kandiyohi Trail

Passing through here in the late '50s was an oxcart trail known as "the Kandiyohi Trail" — a mail route. Starting at Kandiyohi it followed a straight southeast direction, crossing Buffalo Creek at the Sturdivant Ford, a few rods west of the bridge, across the townsite, the old "herding ground (Weerts' farm) going between the house and barn on the T. C. Arnold place, south of Roscoe Dwinnell's to New Auburn and on to Henderson, the river town that was the center of trade for this region.

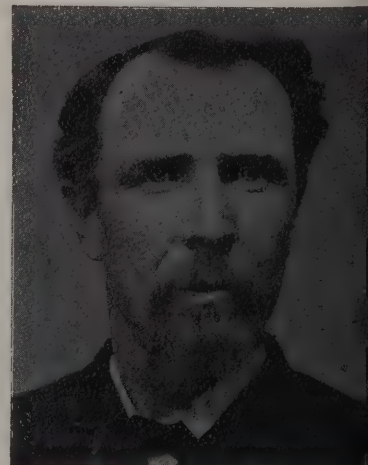
The Cheese Factory

One of the busy places in the early days was the cheese factory, with John Hauser as cheesemaker. It stood on the bank of Buffalo Creek on the northeast corner of the Ogilvie place which is now the Radke farm. It thrived for a few years and with the Ogilvie school (later District 55 which recently consolidated with Brownton) constituted quite a social center for the neighborhood. One of the operators was Millard Arnold, father of Lee Arnold.

D. Y. BUTLER



J. R. BELL





MR. AND MRS. J. M. KISNER — 1923



LAKE MARION

Kearns City

Perhaps Brownton came near not being Brownton after all. When there were prospects of a railroad through these parts it seemed logical it would run directly to Lake Marion from Glencoe, not bypass such a beautiful sheet of water and ideal location for a town. One enterprising man had visions, a Colonel S. D. Kearns from Virginia. He made a pre-emption claim at the south end of the lake and built a hewn log house and surveyed out a townsite which was named "Kearns City." He then built a large two-story hewn log house for a hotel. It was a fine piece of workmanship but never finished and in 1860 some unknown person set fire to it and the dream of a thriving town on the shores of Lake Marion went up in smoke.

MANDOLIN AND GUITAR CLUB

Back row, left to right: Wilma Chase (Mrs. Royal Stokes), Clayton Baker, Ed Maurer, Bertha Jensen (Mrs. O. G. Zimmerman), Claribel Root (Mrs. Ed Maurer). Seated: Pearl Bell (Mrs. J. S. West), Nellie Dwinnell (Mrs. Edwin Elafson), Mrs. A. J. Foss, Lottie Maurer, Abbie Dwinnell (Mrs. Roy West).



The Old Fort

The hill on the Edwin Griebie farm was used by the Indians as a ceremonial site for their councils, dances, etc. The Griebie boys, Grant and Keith, often found evidence of their occupation in parts of stone hatchets and arrowheads. Eventually the Whites and Indians got into trouble and a pitched battle took place in which the Indians were defeated and six of them killed. After that a fort was built southwest of the buildings to be used primarily as a stop-over place for the soldiers when passing through to forts farther north, giving them several days rest.

This has touched upon the events of early days. The history of more recent years will be under the special headings.

GOOD TEMPLARS LODGE — ABOUT 1890



The Sturdivants



MR. AND MRS. CHARLEY STURDIVANT

Sharing honors due the first settlers of Brownton should be Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Sturdivant. Mr. Sturdivant came at the close of the Civil War with his brother Decatur. They seemed to have been undecided between Minnesota and Texas so made a trip down there, but soon returned satisfied with their Minnesota cabin on the banks of the Buffalo.

During the war he had spent many months in Andersonville prison, from the effects of which he never fully recovered. As a souvenir he would exhibit a small cotton bag holding one day's ration — about a half cup of corn meal. One day a dog wandered into the enclosure and the soldiers made a quick meal of him.

It was hard to get this old soldier to talk of his war experiences but when he did, invariably he started out with "When I was in the rank-and-file of the United States Army from the city of Chicago and the state of Illinois —" and from there on you'd get a story. Once when cultivating in his field a neighbor heard him remonstrating with his horse. "D - - - you! If you'd been in the rank-and-file of the United States Army from the city of Chicago, state of Illinois, you wouldn't be so d - - - frisky."

Along with his farming he operated a sorghum mill. We will let Harry West of The Morgan Messenger tell what that sorghum mill meant to the boys and girls of this community:

"Old fashioned" sorghum is advertised at this season of the year by grocery stores, but sorghum or molasses doesn't play the part in the lives of the younger generation it did 50 or 60 years ago.

Then it had a whole lot to do with satisfying the sweet tooth of the small fry, as well, perhaps, as their parents.

In the earlier days nearly every sizeable community had a flour mill, where a farmer could bring his wheat to have it ground, usually a year's supply at a time, and a sorghum mill, where he could bring the sugar cane, for nearly all raised a patch of sugar cane, and have it pressed and processed into sorghum.

I well remember the sorghum mill in my home town, and I'll bet all of the school boys and girls of that generation remember it well, too!

It was operated by a man by the name of Sturdivant who had a farm on the edge of town, and he must have been a good natured old soul, and loved kids, the way he put up with dozens of school children, as soon as they got out of school each day during the sorghum mill season. None of us ever realized what a pest we were, but anyway we all have kindly remembrances of him.

The sorghum mill consisted of a cane press operated by horse power, and a syrup cooker. This consisted of a vat perhaps three feet wide and eight or ten feet long, set into a brick fire place. A lively wood fire was kept going under the vat to cook the syrup.

The vat was divided into five or six compartments. The raw "syrup" was poured into a compartment at the end of the vat where it got the most heat and was scooped along from one compartment to the other in the cooking process until it finally reached the last compartment, where it finished up as "lick-um-good" golden sorghum. That was the end of the vat the kids were interested in. In that last compartment a candy like thick foam gathered over the top and that is what the children craved.

There was one strict rule Mr. Sturdivant had. No one was allowed on his side of the vat, so he could ladle the syrup from one compartment to the other without interference. I don't know whether he judged the stuff by taste, color, or time or texture, or a little of each, but anyway it was always just right at the finish line.

Now when the kids crowded around the vat as they streamed down from school, a few used spoons, but lots of them used a little stick, but some even preferred to use a finger for dipping purposes.



Francis Pollard and Willie Sturdivant

When customers came to the mill with kegs and jugs and other containers, some of them saw what was going on, and of all things, some didn't like it! So one fall a new rule was adopted. No sticks nor fingers were to go into the sorghum vat. You had to use a spoon. That was a sanitary advance for the sorghum industry.

One can see how much nicer it was to have dozens of spoons dipping into the sorghum, over and over again! This new



STURDIVAN'T OLD SORGHUM MILL

rule also taught an early lesson in cooperation and neighborliness. There were always some that forgot their spoon. So, you had the privilege of loaning your spoon to a school mate. The girls especially seemed to have no trouble loaning a spoon on a part time basis — from a boy.

It's a good thing there is always a Sturdivant around to put up with the kids, and make life's memories as sweet as golden sorghum.

Robbie Smith, Willie Sturdivant
and Francis Pollard



STURDIVANT AND WHITE RESIDENCE



Predicament of a Brownton Lady...

By Win V. Working

The following account, written in 1914 by Mrs. William J. White, furnishes much additional information concerning the Lake Addie settlement, of which Brownton is now the center.

My husband, Mr. White, started for Lake Addie, Minnesota Territory, in May (1854) to join some friends and take up a claim. Mr. Hoag had named this lake in honor of his daughter. The settlement, if you could call it that, was called Grimshaw Settlement. It is now Brownton. He got up his cabin and began clearing the land. He and his friends did their cooking and only had two meals a day — breakfast at eight and dinner at three. One hot day they had just cooked a big pan of apple sauce and set it out to cool. Some Indians on their way to a war dance at Shakopee came streaking along all painted up. First one and then another plunged his fist into that apple sauce and stuck it down his throat. It must have skinned them all the way down, not one made a sound, but looked hard when they saw the next one start in.

My husband wrote for me to come to him. I had no pilot so could not start at once. My boy fell and broke his arm and I thought he was badly hurt inside, so I wrote for father to come home. It generally took so long for a letter to go through that when two weeks later I got a chance to go with company, I started, thinking I could get there before the letter would, as they were generally much longer in going than one could travel. When I got on the Northern Belle, a fine boat (at some point below Dubuque, Ia.) one of my children was taken with the croup. Dr. N—, a Universalist minister, got off at Dubuque and bought medicines for me. This saved the child but he was sick all the way. We were stuck in Beef Slough for several days. I never left the cabin as my child needed me, but some time during the first day a boat from St. Paul was stuck there, too, so near us that passengers passed from one boat to the other all day. It was only when I got to Hastings, where I had thought to meet my husband that I found he had been on the other stranded boat. Later I learned that he had spent some time on my boat, but, of course, did not know I was there. The letter I had written had gone straight, as a man who was going to their settlement had taken charge of it from the first. I had to wait six weeks in Hastings until he went clear to Pennsyl-

vania and back. Evangeline wasn't in it with me. (It should be explained here that Mrs. White had started out from Pennsylvania and that her husband had gone back there on learning of his child's illness. This passing each other without meeting certainly recalls the tragic romance of Evangeline and her lover as told in Longfellow's poem.)

Finally he came and we went on to our new home. I thought I had never seen such wonderful wild flowers. Mr. Grimshaw came after us with his horses. We had supper at his house the night before we got to our home and I never tasted anything so good — pheasants browned so beautifully and everything else to match. The most wonderful welcome, too, went with that meal.

We passed fields just red with wild strawberries and in places where the land had been cultivated and the grass was sort of low, they grew away up and were large, with big clusters too. We did just revel in them. They were much more spicy than any we had ever eaten. The wild grass grew high as a man's head. When we came in sight of our home I loved it at once and so did the children. It was in the bend of a little stream with stepping stones across. I knew at once that I had always wanted stepping stones on my place. About two feet from the floor a beam had been set in the whole length of the room. It was roped across and a rough board separated it into two sections. These were our beds, and with feather beds and boughs, made a fine sleeping place. Wolves used to howl around at night, but with the stock secure and home closed up tightly, we were happy. Our walls were plastered with mud and then papered by me with paper that was six cents a roll back east. We made a barrel chair and all kinds of homemade furniture out of packing boxes. Our rooms looked so cozy. Father was a natural cabinet maker although we never knew it until we came here.

Game was very plentiful and as we never had enough back home, we did not soon tire of it. My husband once killed a goose and 11 young ones with one shot. The first year our garden was looking fine when the grasshoppers came in such swarms that they obscured the sun. They swooped on everything in the garden. There was no grain as the squirrels, black-birds and gophers had never tasted this delicacy before and followed the sower, taking it as fast as it fell. We planted it three times and we absolutely had no crop of any kind that first year.

Congregational Church



The "First Congregational Church of Brownton" was organized in the fall of 1875 at the Aaron White home (now the Lloyd Pikal's) four and one-half miles from its present location, with the Rev. Silvanus H. Kellogg as its first pastor. For several years services were held in the Ash Grove school house in Penn township.

The charter members were Mr. and Mrs. Aaron White, Mr. and Mrs. John Thom, Mr. and Mrs. Edmund Phillips, Mr. and Mrs. John Dunn, Mr. and Mrs. Minor Ward, Mr. and Mrs. J. P. West, Josiah Baker, Frank Baker, Mrs. Polly Baker, Mrs. George Thom and Mrs. Elizabeth Jenkins. Some of the members were four or five miles from where services were held and came in lumber wagons drawn by horses or oxen over prairie trails.

Times were hard and pastors were not always paid regular salaries but the people were good donators and gave freely of what they had to support the pastor's family and feed his horses.

The second pastor, Mr. Chandler, was offered a load of hay for a wedding fee, but after the wedding the young man forgot to deliver the hay.

Some of the early pastors who served the church were the Reverends Silvanus Kellogg, J. Chandler, J. B. Renshaw, Lewis, James Earl and J. W. Danford.

Donation parties were a common occurrence when the congregation had a surprise party for the minister and came with a generous donation which helped eke out

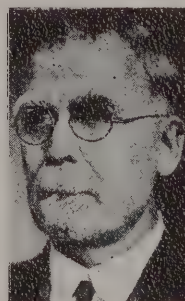
the salary if they did not stay too long. One such party was being held at the home of George Thom (now the Melvin Todd's) when a blizzard came up and they had to stay all night and part of the next day.

In 1879 the church moved into town and had services in the school house. From there they went to the Odd Fellows hall and then to the Dapper building, an abandoned saloon east of the City Hall. Soon they were back to the upper story of the school house and then to the present permanent home, built in 1886.

The present officers are: Board of Trustees, Wm. Peik, Edward Tadsen, Edward Mann; Deacons: Warren West, Ray Brethorst; Deaconesses: Mrs. Laura Engelsmier, Mrs. Frank Pikal; Treasurer: O. G. Zimmerman; Clerk: Mrs. Lois Williamson; Organist: Mrs. Wm. Peik; Custodian: Ted Krie; Ushers: Calvin West and Duane Wendland.

Submitted by

Albert Holmes and Mrs. Lois Williamson



REV. EARL



REV. DANFORD



REV. OLSEN

Grace Lutheran Church

Lutheran people in Brownnton organized a congregation in 1888 under the leadership of Pastor Mueller of St. Matthew's, Penn township. They built their first church that same year. By 1893 they numbered 20 families. Genz, Schulz, Schimmelpfennig, Welke, Hoffmann, Rolfs, Radtke, Braun, and Bohn are familiar names from those early days. Following Pastor Mueller's ministry, two more pastors from St. Matthew's, Gebhard and George Diemer, served until 1900.



REV. HUGO F. SCHWARTZ
Present Pastor

In 1900 Pastor C. Kowalske began his life-long ministry at St. Paul's, Stewart, and our congregation. During his ministry the present church was built in 1922. He died in 1942 and Pastor Walter Diemer of St. Matthew's served briefly until our congregation called a pastor of its own. Pastor Lindekugel came in 1943; Pastor Moench succeeded him in 1945 and retired from the ministry in 1950; Pastor V. Schmidt began his ministry here in 1950 and left in 1954; the present pastor, Rev. Hugo F. Schwartz, came in 1955. The congregation grew rapidly during these last years. Today it numbers 290 baptized members.

According to the records, Grace Lutheran Church will be 70 years old in 1958. This is real cause for thanksgiving to God. "Not unto us, O Lord, not unto us, but unto Thy name give glory, for Thy mercy, and for Thy truth's sake."

Immanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church



ST. JOHN'S CHURCH
1895 - 1901

Immanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church, affiliated with The Lutheran Church — Missouri Synod, traces its origin in the Brownton community to the short-lived St. John's Lutheran Church, which lay about five miles south of Brownton and was in existence from 1887 to 1895. When St. John's was dissolved, Immanuel Lutheran Church was organized in Brownton on December 26, 1895.



PASTOR A. LANGE
First Pastor

From 1895 to 1900 the congregation was served by students of theology, the last of whom, August H. Lange, became the first resident pastor, 1900 to 1903. He is living in retirement in Summit, Ill. During his pastorate the original very small church was replaced by a larger one, 50 x 30, with a 75-foot spire. At this time the congregation also erected its first school, in order to offer the children an adequate training in religion. During the first years the school was entirely under the care of the pastor, but since 1913 the congregation has employed professional teachers.

From 1903 to 1915 the congregation was served by August C. Bode (died 1955, Orange, Calif.), and in 1915 Henry Weerts succeeded him. These were decades of

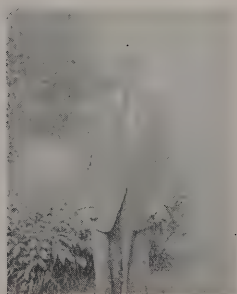
tremendous growth, and the church built in 1901 now proved to be much too small.

In 1923-24 the present church was built, and it adequately serves the worship purposes of the congregation to this day. Pastor Henry Weerts, whose ministry of 22 years is the longest of any pastor of the congregation, lives in retirement in Wentworth, South Dakota. His successor as pastor of the congregation was Gerhard Schmidt, who served here until 1949.

The present pastor of the congregation (since 1949) is R. W. Koepp. The congregation now consists of about 250 families or households, over 600 communicants, over 800 souls; and the worship services of the congregation are conducted in two languages, English and German.



PASTOR R. W. KOEPP
Present Pastor



**PASTOR
WEERTS**



St. Matthew Lutheran Church

The history of St. Matthew Lutheran Church dates back to the year 1865. The congregation was first served by traveling missionaries until a pastor was called.

The first local minister was a Pastor von Nordek from New York City. Until 1891 the change of pastors was frequent. In the year 1891 Rev. George Diemer, Sr. was called and he served until 1927 when his son, Walter, replaced him, serving until 1943. Pastor A. Kohlberg served the congregation from 1943 until 1949. Since then Pastor E. W. L. Lehne has been in charge.

The charter members of the congregation were: Friedrich Borchardt, Friedrich Schuft, Christian Kujas, John Bauermesiter, Carl Opitz, Kalisch, Christian Strese-

mann, Wilhelm Sommer, Ferdinand Wendlandt, Vater Wendlandt, Karl Wendlandt, Mr. Rickheim, Wilhelm Gaulke, Ferdinand Gaulke, Mr. Helmer, Mr. Leske, Andrew Ortloff, Karl Bahr, Karl Nuernberg and Mr. Albrecht.

At the present time the congregation numbers 365 baptized members and 265 confirmed members.

The congregation has a fine church which has been remodeled during the last years so that it is a beautiful edifice. It has a modern, up-to-date parsonage. There is also a school house, barn, garage and a cemetery.

The present church was dedicated in the year 1892; the parsonage was built a few years later.



PASTOR E. W. L. LEHNE
Present Pastor

Zion Methodist Church

The Sumter congregation was organized in 1862 under the guidance of Mr. Frederick Klopffleisch. The first minister was Rev. William Rotert.

In 1875 the Sumter Church erected a new church building. Rev. Dosdall was minister at the time.

In 1879, under the leadership of Rev. F. W. Griewe, the Brownnton Congregation was organized.

In 1892, a church building was erected in Brownnton. The minister at that time was Rev. William Maas.

In 1900, a new church building was erected by the Sumter congregation under the leadership of Rev. Emil Uhl.

On May 5, 1946 the Sumter and Brownnton congregations officially merged and became the Zion Methodist Church. Both Rev. George C. Fenske and Rev. T. Benton Clark helped to bring about the merger. Rev. Clark was the minister at the time the merger was officially consummated.

The Sumter church building was moved in from the country in February of 1948 to its present location in Brownnton. This structure continues to serve the needs of the present congregation.



ZION METHODIST CHURCH
Moved to present location in 1948



REV. DON W. GRAY
Present Minister



METHODIST CHURCH, BROWNTON
(Erected 1892 — No Longer Standing)



REV. WM. MAAS
(1889 - 1893)

St. Mary's Episcopal Church

This church was erected in 1892. Among the first active members were Frederick and Augusta Griebbe, John and Merna Kisser, Bedina Brown, Alice and Lola Brown and Carrie Nichols.

Bishop H. B. Whipple was the first Episcopal Bishop for Minnesota. He had



confirmation service at St. Mary's several times. He was followed by Bishop Gilbert and Bishop Edsall.

Before the building was erected in 1892 services were

held in the Dapper building. It stood on the corner one block north of the Congregational Church, across from the present City Hall.

J. Wynne Jones of Glencoe was the first rector. He was followed by a Rev. Atwater.

There are four members of this church who still live in Brownton. They are Mrs. Ida Ewald, Mrs. Frank Gaulke, Mrs. Wm. Alden and Helen May Baker.

St. Mary's was dismantled in 1931.

Submitted by
Miss Virginia Baker and Mrs. Ida Ewald

The Women's Welfare League

The Women's Welfare League of Brownton was organized March 24, 1920. The purpose — to labor for the good and welfare of the village.

Charter members: Nellie Dwinneel, Lucy Titlow, Blanche Canfield, Jane Stillwell, Edith Ford, Elizabeth Zimmerman, Elizabeth Damask, Nellie Gaulke, Ida Ewald, Josephine Groth, Amanda West, Nettie Mann, Bertha Zimmerman, Bessie Peik, Laura Seeland and Viola Sturdivant.

The biggest project for the town for many years was cleaning up Oak Grove Cemetery and providing care of it for many years.

Two drinking fountains were erected for public use. Liberal contributions were made toward the building of the band stand in the park. Tables and benches for same were made and donated.

Contributions were given to the Tennis Club, warming house at the skating rink, band uniforms for school, lighting project at the ball park, Lake Marion project sponsored by the Rod and Gun club and to the Village for water for the cemetery.

We cooperated with the Village Council at all times, the County Nurse and the Red Cross nurse.

Cash awards were given for essays and

contests for the advancement of the community, State and Nation.

We donated to the Salvation Army, Red Cross, Cancer Fund, Heart Fund, Christmas Seals, Society for the Prevention of Blindness, Minnesota Association for Crippled Children, National Polio Fund and for the Crusade for Children.

Many C.A.R.E. packages were sent to Greece, Korea, Finland, Israel, India and the Near East Relief was also helped.

For many years, the members helped the needy, the lonely and aged at Christmas. Several times we took charge of the "Santa Claus" day program for the village. Christmas gifts were sent to the children at Gillette Hospital.

Our own youth was encouraged to take part in our programs. We helped provide stage equipment for the school.

Teachers and new-comers were always made welcome and entertained at our meetings and invited to be a member.

The Women's Welfare League became a member of the Minnesota State Federation of Women's Clubs in 1921, and a member of the General Federation in 1940.

During World War II an award for service was bestowed upon us.

Contributed by Mrs. Henry Ewald

History of the Brownton Public School

Previous to the year 1868 school was taught by Mrs. Pollock in the Pollock home which was situated on the southeast side of Lake Addie.

On April 17, 1868, a shanty 12 x 14 feet in size was erected by a few settlers in the Lake Addie area. The scantlings were hauled up from New Auburn and the rest of the material was donated by the various settlers.

It was built a few rods south of where the Abraham residence now stands. Miss Amelia Ames was the first teacher who taught in the shanty. Those who taught previous to 1872 were Caroline Greenburg, Lucinda Hall, Emily Patterson, Elthea Illet, Amelia Bunch, Hattie Benjamin and Mary Bunch.

On June 15, 1872 the shanty school house was moved on runners to the site which is now the Brownton park and the same was placed near a large oak tree. After the great blizzard of 1872, Mr. A. L. Brown and his wife taught school in their home as the shanty could not be sufficiently heated. They continued to have school in their home until 1876.

On May 6, 1876 a school meeting was held in the home of A. L. Brown and he was instructed to purchase an acre of ground on the Grimshaw farm for the school district which was the site on which

the shanty then stood. At this meeting it was decided to build a new school house and the clerk was instructed to draw a plan for the building and get estimates on the cost of the same.

Another meeting was held on May 13 and the plans and estimates submitted were approved.

On June 17 the contract was let for the construction of the building without seats for the sum of \$724.00. The land was purchased for \$25.00. On July 15 bonds were issued by the school district in the amount of \$950.00 to pay for the building and the necessary furnishings.

On November 4 the seats were fastened. This completed the building and it was known as "The Little Red School House." School began in this building on May 21, 1877 with Miss Emma Lee as the first teacher. The next year school was taught by A. G. Foss and Jane Grow.

By January 7, 1880 the number of pupils had climbed to 64 and it was necessary to teach the primary class in the I.O.O.F. hall which stood on the site of the present new fire hall.

In 1882, in order to accommodate the increasing number of pupils, an addition was added to the school building consisting of an upper story.

Some of the Early Teachers



Emma Lee Evans
First Teacher



A. G. Foss



E. M. Lewis
1884



E. M. Phillips
About 1889



Polly Baker



The Little Red School House with addition of the upper story



Laura Arnold, Teacher, and pupils at The Little Red School House



Large oak in front of school



FIRST GRADUATING CLASS — 1894
Wilma Chase Stokes Ethel Wilson Savage



Four room school, teachers and pupils — 1905
Roderick McKay, Superintendent



PRIMARY GROUP — 1898 — ANNA LYNCH, TEACHER
Sitting, left to right: 1. Ruby Priler, 2. Nettie Urbach, 3. Bessie Davidson, 4. Arthur Lunenberg, 5. Miss Anna Lynch, 6. Unidentified, 7. Hazel Bell 8. Fern Foss, 9. Arthur Jensen.
Back row: 1. Floyd Foss, 2. Walter Urbach, 3. Mabel Butler, 4. Elbie Kay, 5. Andy Lundberg.



Four room school built in 1890

In the year 1891 bonds were voted in the amount of \$5,000.00 for the purpose of constructing a new school building. It was built during the same year and contained four grade rooms, a recitation room and library. School was taught up to the tenth grade. It was built on the site which is now the village park.

About the year 1921 it was decided that Brownton should have a four year high school. After several unsuccessful attempts, bonds for the construction of the

new building were finally voted in the amount of \$25,000, which was added to the \$25,000 fund already accumulated.

Before the construction of the school became a reality it was decided that it should be built on a new site where there would be enough room for an athletic field. Before this was accomplished, several elections were held. The site finally chosen was the one where the present building now stands.



FOUR ROOM SCHOOL AND PUPILS OF UPPER GRADES — 1901

Back row: Nina Smith Zimmerman, Edythe Janke, Mabel Butler, Floyd Foss, Keith McKay, Kay, Herman Peterson, Lou Baker, Harry West, Billy Lundberg, Etta Siats, Mabel Ferguson, Ida Knick Ewald, Sadie Kisner, Hattie Dunn, Bertha Zimmerman, May Baker, Mr. McKay. Front row: Louise Ewald, Clara Brown, Floy Butler, Martha Engelsmer, Lillie Yanke, Emma Buechler, Anna Knoerr, Nora Moore, Ollie Thompson, Marie Ewald, Alma Neitzel or Ada Reiley, Edith Bohn, Dora Peik, Lizzie Peik.



Helen May Baker
Taught high school from
1895 to 1904



FOUR ROOM SCHOOL AND PUPILS OF LOWER GRADES — 1901

First row: Ella Schmelphenning, Gertie West, Darrel Brown, Virginia Baker, Mabel Brown, Wallace Yanke, Bessie Peik, Alton Allen, Ella Neitzel, Arthur Yanke. Second row: Hazel Bell, Lulu Seitz, Myra Ernst, Irvin Ernst, Anna Polfuss, Albert Rekow, Fred Tadsen, Ida Streich, Bennie Smith, Marjorie Butler, Elsie Knick. Top row: Lydia Radke, Louie Schmidt, Albert Schmidt, Carl Schraeder, Willie Smith, Billy Schultz, Steir Zitlow, Henry Rickert, Willie Osterman, Arthur Urbach, Emma Radke, Jennie Sturdivant, teacher.

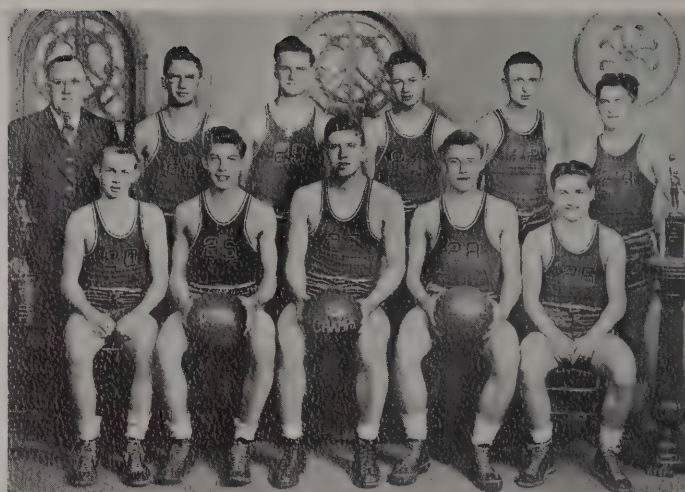


**Alfred Jury, Supt., Anna Lynch,
Molly Heal and Mabel Vaughn**
1892 - 1893



FIRST GIRLS' BASKETBALL TEAM — 1906

First row: Mabel Brown, Esther Duehn Sauter, Lizzie Tiech, Virginia Baker, Gertie West Ball, Myrtle Cook. Back row: Ida Streich, Lenora Ewald Blake, Marjorie Fleisch, Mable Butler Neimtz, Miss Waller—Coach, Anna Knoerr Hubbard, Bessie Dreter Peik, Ella Neitzel LaGrange.



Regional Champions — 1944

S. M. Hawkinson, Superintendent and Coach

This new building provided room for the first eight grades, a library room and superintendent's office.

In the year 1947, \$80,000 of bonds were voted to be used to construct a new gymnasium. After an additional \$20,000 bond issue had carried, the gymnasium was built in the year 1949.

The Class of 1927, under the leadership of Gertrude Bielke, President, promoted an Alumni Association. The first meeting was held at the Lake Marion Grove Hotel on June 18, 1927. The officers elected

were Ivan Kreie, Pres., Corinne Zimmerman, Vice-Pres., E. L. Zander, Secretary, Bernard Streich, Treasurer. At this time it was voted to include those graduates who finished when there were only two years of high school. In the fall of 1956 the Alumni met at the school following the Homecoming football game. The officers elected for 1957 were Clifford Bussler, President, Mrs. T. W. Williamson, Vice-President, Mrs. William Peik, 2nd Vice-President, Glenn Klopffleisch, Secretary, B. C. Peik, Treasurer, Ruth Draeger, Asst. Secretary and Treasurer.



School Building Constructed in 1922



Achsa Blanche Canfield
High School Principal
1913 - 1924

On October 23, 1945 a P.T.A. organization was started, the first officers being John Padrnos, President, Mrs. David Kaplan, Vice-President, Mrs. Florence Klopfeisch, Secretary, Mr. Henry Janke, Treasurer. A great deal has been accomplished by the organization in promoting understanding between parents and teachers. For the past three years a \$100 scholarship has been given to an outstanding graduate who plans to enter the teaching profession. The 1956-1957 officers are Lois Williamson, President, Eugene Nolan, Vice-President, Florence Klopfeisch, Secretary, Mrs. Ervin Schultz, Treasurer.

The school district was re-organized in the year 1952 and 16 common school districts surrounding Brownton joined with the Brownton district. This arrangement made it necessary to have more room to take care of the greatly increased enrollment. In the year 1954 bonds were carried in the amount of \$290,000 for the con-

struction of needed additions to the school. These included a large shop and agricultural room, domestic science room, library room, additional grade rooms and high school and study rooms, all of which were built in the year 1955.

At the present time there are 403 pupils enrolled. The first board of directors for the newly organized district were Dr. A. M. Jensen, Chairman, Wesley Abram, Clerk, Adry C. Peik, Treasurer, Burton Zimmerman, Walter Radke and Charles Draeger.

Mrs. Elsie Doerr has been in charge of the noon luncheons for 12 years. Mr. Percy Duehn has been head janitor for the past 11 years.

The Brownton community may well point with pride to its excellent and complete school facilities with a faculty of 18 members headed by Superintendent L. A. Kulas.

Contributed by Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Peik



GYMNASIUM BUILT IN 1949

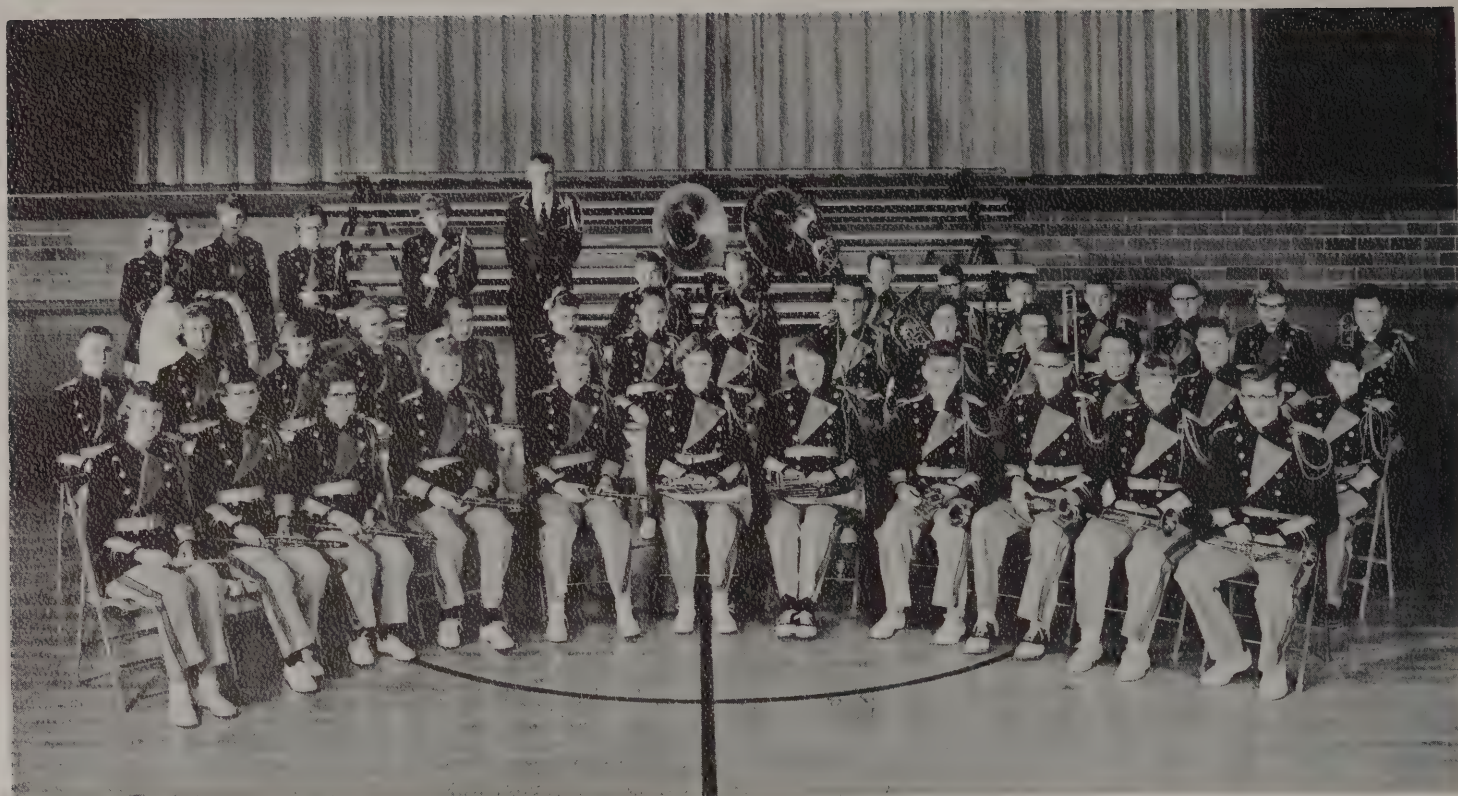


FACULTY 1956 - 1957

First row: Miss Cass, Miss Syverson, Mrs. Doerr, Mrs. Danek, Mrs. Hochprung, Mrs. Dahlgren. Second row: Mrs. Siegel, Miss Gunderson, Mrs. Laraway, Mrs. Berndt, Mr. Nolan, Mr. West. Third row: Mr. McNamar, Mr. Tracy, Mr. Johnson, Mr. Guanella, Mr. Bjelland, Supt. Kulas, Mr. Mohwinkel.



EAST VIEW OF THE PRESENT SCHOOL BUILDING



HIGH SCHOOL BAND — R. W. MOHWINKEL, Director
Received superior rating at district music festival



DARWIN FRAUENDIENST



VERNAMAREE PEIK



KENNETH RAIBER



JANET WINTERFELDT



BONITA BARTELS



ROBERT LIETZ



DONNA HANKE



GEORGE WENKING



JEROME STREICH



JANET JENSEN



LOUIS A. KULAS
SUPERINTENDENT



ELWOOD C. GUANELLA
PRINCIPAL



MARLENE ROSE



DUWAYNE PAEHLKE



DOROTHY SCHULTZ



DALE PETERS



DOREEN BUSSLER

**BROWNTON
HIGH SCHOOL**
CLASS OF
1957



CAROLE LOHRENZ



RICHARD ARNESON



MARLYS SCHATZ



EUNICE SCHUFT



ELDONNA SCHULTZ



LARRY HUSEFELDT



MARILYN SCHMIDT



JANICE WAGNER



KAY KARG



STANLEY LINDEMAN



GRANICE ARNOLD



VALORIS VINAR

GRADUATING CLASS OF 1957 AND SUPT. L. A. KULAS

7-Chance
STUDIO



PHILIP DONNELL, Attorney



W. L. MACRAE, Attorney



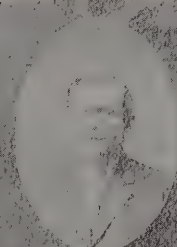
H. C. MCRAE, Attorney



J. D. MCRAE, Attorney



J. D. MCRAE, Attorney



J. D. MCRAE, Attorney



J. D. MCRAE, Attorney



J. D. MCRAE, Attorney



J. D. MCRAE, Attorney



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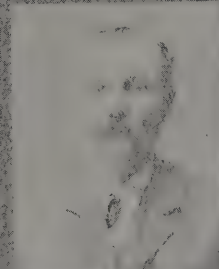
J. D. MCRAE, Attorney



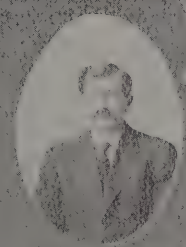
J. D. MCRAE, Attorney



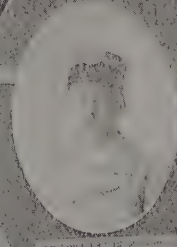
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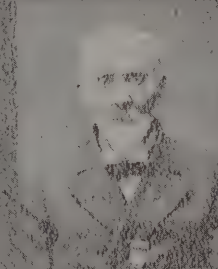
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J. D. MCRAE, Attorney



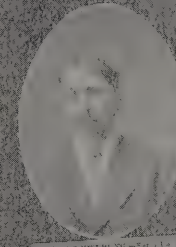
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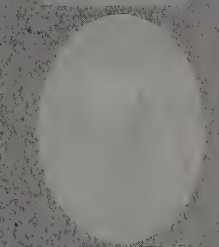
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J. D. MCRAE, Attorney



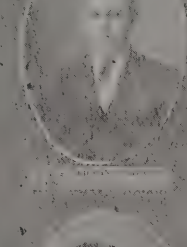
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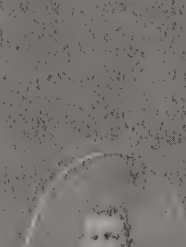
J. D. MCRAE, Attorney



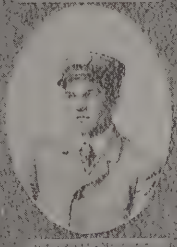
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J. D. MCRAE, Attorney



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J. D. MCRAE, Attorney



J. D. MCRAE, Attorney



J. D. MCRAE, Attorney



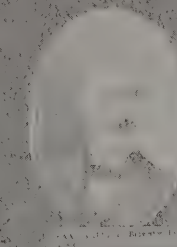
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J. D. MCRAE, Attorney



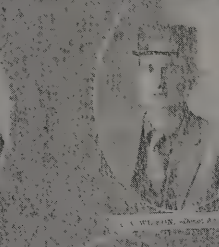
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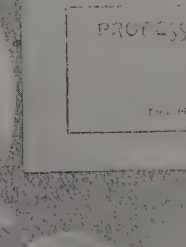
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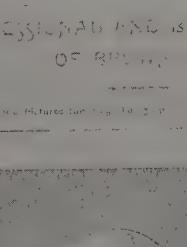
J. D. MCRAE, Attorney



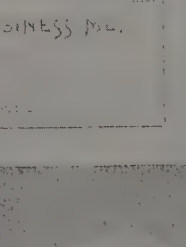
J. D. MCRAE, Attorney



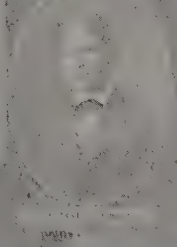
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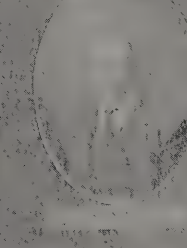
J. D. MCRAE, Attorney



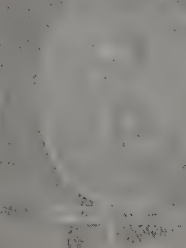
J. D. MCRAE, Attorney



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J. D. MCRAE, Attorney



J. D. MCRAE, Attorney



J. D. MCRAE, Attorney

PROFESSIONAL AND BUSINESS MEN
OF BIRMINGHAM

THE BIRMINGHAM CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Business Men . . . 1957



Burt Borson
Mechanic



Wm. Knoerr
Blacksmith



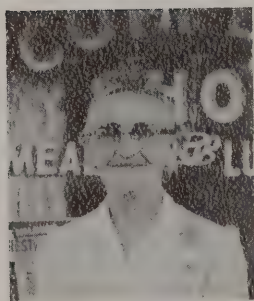
K. M. Brandt
Grain Elevator Owner



Ilo Ortloff
Beauty Operator



A. C. Schoenfelder
Lumberyard Manager



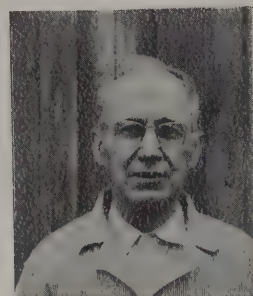
Mrs. Fred Kahle
Coffee Shop



Wm. Pinske
Meat Market



Henry Burich
Insurance Agent



Alex Gasow
Mechanic



Morris Gasow
Mechanic



James Davis
Grain Elevator Mgr.



A. A. Redmann
Leather Goods Store



Magnus Redmann
Leather Goods Store



Chas. Doerr
Investment Salesman



Alton Holmes
Painter



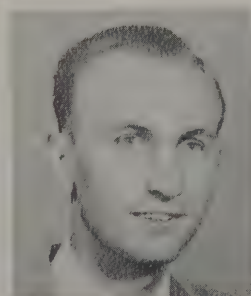
Harry Lindeman
Oil Station Operator



Wesley Katzenmeyer
Hotel Operator



R. A. Zimmerman
Department Store



Ray Lindeman
Banker



Gordon Wisdorf
Electrician

Business Men . . . 1957



Marvin Spaude
Oil Distributor



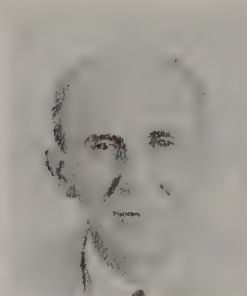
Fred Kucera
Barber (Councilman)



Chris Knudsen
Soft Drink Parlor



John Hagedorn
Feed Mill



David Kaplin
Produce man



Albert Lehmann
Grocer



Gust Witte
Implement Dealer



R. F. Zimmerman
Department Store



Thomas Tadsen
Oil Station and Oil
Distributor



John Padrnos
Hatchery Man



Emil Birkholz
Creamery Manager



Erhardt Weerts
Cafe & Drive In



Walter Lang
Garageman



Martin Lindeman
Postmaster



Elmer Podratz
Garageman



Dr. A. M. Jensen
Physician & Surgeon



Curtis Tongen
Soft Drink Parlor



E. W. West
Hardware Dealer



Mrs. Gladys Kelm
Liquor Store Mgr.



Henry C. Janke
Grocer

Business Men . . . 1957



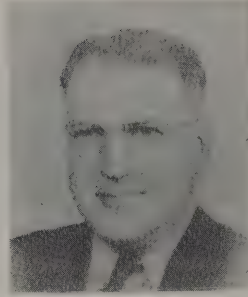
Mrs. Marie LaValley
Variety Store



W. A. Scrimgeour
Druggist



Herbert Timm
Garageman



E. J. Mann
Banker



Elmer Genz
Oil Station Operator



Hugo Lemke
Soft Drink Parlor



Wm. Peik
Hardware Dealer



Linden Lundstrom
Gamble Store Opr.



Henry Johnson
Barber



Leo Plaisance
Insurance Agent



Ivan H. Kreie
Village Clerk



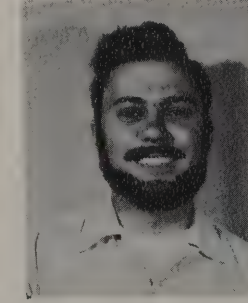
Chas. H. Warner
Editor



Dr. G. L. Griebie
Physician & Surgeon
(Mayor)



Lawrence Simpson
Manager Newway
Milk House Co.



George Uecker
Dry Cleaner



Werner Weerts
Farm Supply Store



W. R. Matheny
Oil Distributor
(Councilman)



Ernst Hardel
Hardware Dealer



James Vinar
Car Salesman



Martin Braun
Village Policeman

Our Bands Through The Years



About the first band on record in this community was the "Gehrke Band", at left, strictly a string band, organized in 1888 by August Gehrke and sons Otto and Albert—later on added Emil Gehrke, Dick Barnes and Julius Kempf.

This band played for all celebrations, dances and weddings. Note the band standing in center background at the wedding of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Zander in 1897. The only living members of this band are Albert Gehrke, age 93, and Dick Barnes, age 84.

Sixty-one years ago, in 1896, a dozen of Brown-ton's young men organized a "Brass Band", photo at right, and entertained the community with lively band music.

Members, left to right in each row: Bottom row—Clayton Baker and John Lloyd. Second row—Wm. Sturdivant, Perl Barnes, Wm. Wright, Frank Calkins. Third row—Geo. Butler, Dick Barnes, Roy West, E. L. Maurer. Top row—Chas. Butler, Joe GeRoy. Geo. Rosser of Hutchinson (not on picture) was director.



The band on the left was organized in 1904 and directed by Joe GeRoy (Brown-ton's barber until 1908). Reading left to right in each row, the members are:

Bottom row—Sammy Altnow, Frank Calkins, Joe GeRoy (leader), Wm. Peik, Ervin Ernst. Second row—Albert Peik, Henry Rickert, Arthur Kreie, Chas. Zimmerman, Claude Cronley, Ceylon Ward. Top row—Otto Sell, Paul Kreie, Edwin Grasinger.

Furnishing music for Fourth of July and G. A. R. Encampment Celebrations was their specialty.

Dr. E. L. Maurer conducted this band from 1908 to 1911.





Picture on the left shows the Brownton Band 1912 to 1915. Young members were taken in yearly. Reading left to right in each row, the members are:

Front row, seated — Oliver Rekow, Walter Klitzke, Otto Sell, Roscoe Dwinel. Middle row — Ben Peik, Adolf Redmann, Otto Spiering, Wm. Dobberstein, Rob. Podratz, Otto Zimmerman. Back row — Rob. Peik, Alfred Schatz, Geo. Peik, Aug. Spiering, Wm. Peik, Rob. Zimmerman, Fred Peik.

N. Coucheron of Olivia (not on picture) was the director.



Memorial Day Parade — headed by the Brownton Concert Band — an annual event.

The school is turning out a fine band annually and they have taken over these duties since 1942. Hats off to our excellent school bands.



O. O. VAUGHAN
Veteran band director of the Brownton Concert Band each year, 1915 to 1941.

Prof. Moritz German Band — famous for their Old Time Music and Mirth, entertained young and old over the entire county and surrounding counties during 1933 to 1936.

Reading left to right: Otto Sell (Prof. Moritz), leader; Dr. H. Wilson, Ivan Kreie, Albert Peik, Wm. Peik, Franklin Peters, Eppie Abram, Otto Zimmerman, Supt. W. B. Lyslo.

This photo was taken at Lake Marion Land O'Lakes picnic.



Contributed by Otto Sell



DR. GRIEBIE



THE BROWNTON CLINIC



DR. JENSEN

Medical History

Dr. Eugenio Carver Baker was the pioneer doctor who served this locality for miles around.

He was born Sept. 8, 1803 in Talland, Conn., the son of Dr. Josiah and Talitha Carver Baker, a direct descendent of Robert Carver of Plymouth Colony. He grew to manhood in Harwick and Yarmouth, Mass., and from there followed the fortunes of the family westward, first to Erie, Penn., and then to Freedom, Ohio. In the pre-Civil War days he became an ardent abolitionist and was connected with the "Underground Railroad" to the extent that his home was one of the "Stations." This led to his being "read out" of the Congregational Church in Freedom which was the main reason for his coming to Minnesota in 1855 and to Penn Township in 1865, settling on the lake that bears his name, Baker's Lake.

Dr. William Thurmond was the first resident doctor in Brownton, coming here from Hastings, Minn., in 1880. He was a native of Georgia. He built the first house on the present site of the Lee Arnold home. Because of failing health he sold his practice in 1884 to Dr. Bolles and returned South.

Dr. D. W. Bolles practiced here until 1906, when he retired. For a few years he was connected with the Eitel Hospital in Minneapolis but because of his health was forced to seek a warmer climate.

He was born in Afton, Minnesota Jan. 11, 1860, but grew to manhood in Stillwater, where he started the study of medicine while a hospital steward in the prison, later graduating from Rush Medical College, Chicago. He died at Long Beach, Calif., February 9, 1940.

Dr. Edmond Maurer took over Dr. Bolles' practice and carried on until his death in 1925.

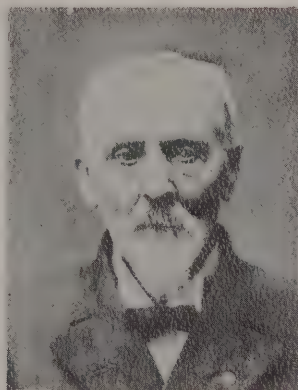
Following then in quick succession were Doctors, Miner, Engstrand, Rankin, Wisgerber, Remple, Koffman and Moering.

Dr. Alvin Jensen, who is now practicing here, came in 1935. He established the Brownton Clinic with Dr. Kalstad as an associate for several years. Dr. Griebie is now a member of the Clinic, coming in 1952.

Dr. Maurer and Dr. Griebie were both Brownton boys which goes to prove that boys can go back to the old home town and make good.



DR. BOLLES



DR. BAKER



DR. MAURER

The Post Office

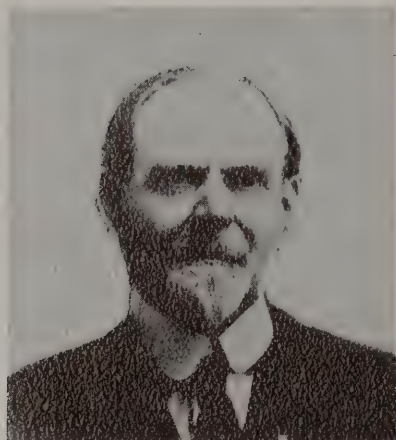


MR. ILETT, POSTMASTER, MARK EWALD
AND HATTIE EWALD, ASSISTANT

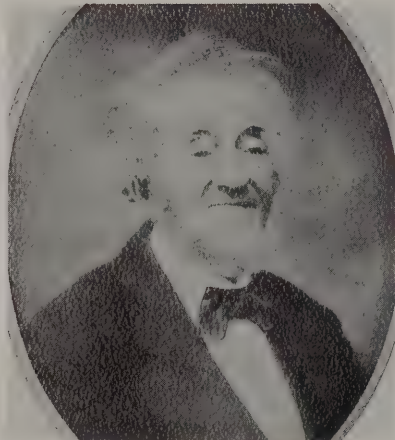


THE PRESENT STAFF

Left to right: Percy Hakes, Carrier; Marjorie Burich Dettman, Tom Dawson, Carrier; Martin Lindeman, Postmaster.



FRANK W. BOOTH



A. C. BAKER



ANNA E. BAKER

The first postal service was a weekly line from Glencoe to Ft. Ridgely, crossing Buffalo Creek at the Ford on the R. C. Dwinnell farm. The carrier was Peter W. Savage. He drove stakes eight or ten feet high on the whole line and near enough together to see from stake to stake so that in stormy weather he would have less difficulty in following the route.

On January 1, 1879 the first mail car came through and an office was set up in the depot, but on December 31, 1879 it was moved to the A. L. Brown residence where it remained for 15 years. Those succeeding Mr. Brown were Frank W. Booth, 1896; C. L. Ilett, 1899. Mr. Ilett died in office and A. C. Baker was appointed in 1910; Anna E. Baker, 1915; Percy Hakes, 1935, and Martin H. Lindeman, the present incumbent, 1950.

The office changed its home several times. From the depot to Mr. Brown's, to

the Seeland Building, to the old Bulletin office (Janke's store), to the Odd Fellows Hall. There it burned out October 9, 1910, with the loss of records and \$12.57 in stamps. Temporary quarters were set up in the building back of the Brownton Hardware until the Odd Fellows Hall could be rebuilt. It started out as a fourth class office, advanced to third class in 1916 and to second class in 1954.

The first rural delivery started with two routes in 1903. The third route was added in 1905, but in 1933 two were consolidated.

In the beginning the equipment was private property, but is now owned by the Department. When the rural routes started the carriers were required to furnish their own horses, wagons and sleds, and in later years had to obtain permission from the Department to use their automobiles on the rural routes during the summer months.

Brownton Rod & Gun Club

"The Club That Gets Things Done"

The first club was formed in the early 1900's and was called the Sportsman's Club which was primarily concerned with trapshooting at the neighboring towns.

The present club is concentrating more on conservation and game and fish. The president of the club is E. E. Bartels.

The club's motto is "The Club That Gets Things Done", and it certainly has lived up to that motto. In 1948 they helped build a dike across the North end of Lake Marion, which enables the Game and Fish Department to trap the rough fish that return from the spawning grounds and prevent them from returning to the main lake.

They also helped build a spillway in the

outlet of the lake on the South end of the lake to keep any rough fish from entering the Lake.

The Brownton, Hutchinson and Stewart clubs also built a spillway in a stream on the Chas. Schuch farm to keep the rough fish from traveling up the stream into other lakes.

The club's latest achievement has been providing a picnic ground, swimming beach and boating facilities for the public on the South shore of Lake Marion. The club is now working on improving a parking and general recreation area on the South end of Lake Marion.

The membership of the club at the present time is 596.



A view of the South Shore of Lake Marion before the Club started to clear the trees and brush away.



A view of the South Shore of Lake Marion after the club had finished all its work on the project.

Brownton Civic & Commerce Association



Present Executive Board of the Association, pictured at left, are: (left to right)
Front row —

Calvin West	Secretary
Chas. Warner	President
Ray Lindeman	Treasurer

Back row —

Emil Birkholz	Trustee
Chas. Doerr	Vice President
Curtis Tongen	Trustee
Gordon Wisdorf	Trustee

The Association was organized on February 6th, 1905, under the name of Brownton Improvement Association, for the purpose of promoting the Commercial and Social Interests of the Community. The name of the Association was changed to Brownton Commercial Club on May 14th, 1917, and again on January 13th, 1947 the name was changed to Brownton Civic & Commerce Association. Now in its 53rd year, the Association has been active every year since organization.

Listed here are a few of the many Civic

Improvements and Social affairs promoted and/or sponsored and assisted by the Association: Better roads and streets, organizing of present Fire Department, Building present City Hall, Brownton's first Electric Light Plant, organizing present Co-op Creamery Association, change of School Site, building new School House in 1922, acquiring old site for Village Park, building Band Stand, Village Band, change of Common School District to Independent District, all public celebrations during these years.



PEDER B. JENSEN
President



JAMES BOHN
Vice President



FRANK MANN
Treasurer



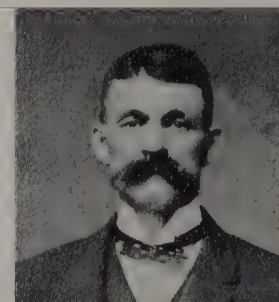
O. G. ZIMMERMAN
Secretary



DR. D. W. BOLLES
Trustee

Pictured here are six members of the Executive Board, elected at the organization meeting on February 6th, 1905. The seventh member was John W. Thompson (no picture available).

O. G. Zimmerman has been an all-time member. Served 12 years as Secretary and 10 years as President.



M. B. WEST
Trustee

The Fire Department



The first Brownton Fire Department was organized in 1891. The equipment was all hand operated; they had a pumper which took 8 or 10 men to operate, the water being supplied from cisterns located at various intersections. Many a fire was extinguished with hand operated equipment.

For several years Brownton was without the service of an organized department and depended upon volunteers at the sound of the alarm.

The present department was organized in 1913 with 30 names on the roll. The first set of officers were: Chief, M. B. West; Assistant Chief, Frank Groth; Treasurer, Wm. Peik; and Secretary, Otto Sell. The first motorized equipment was a truck purchased in 1928, which made it possible to

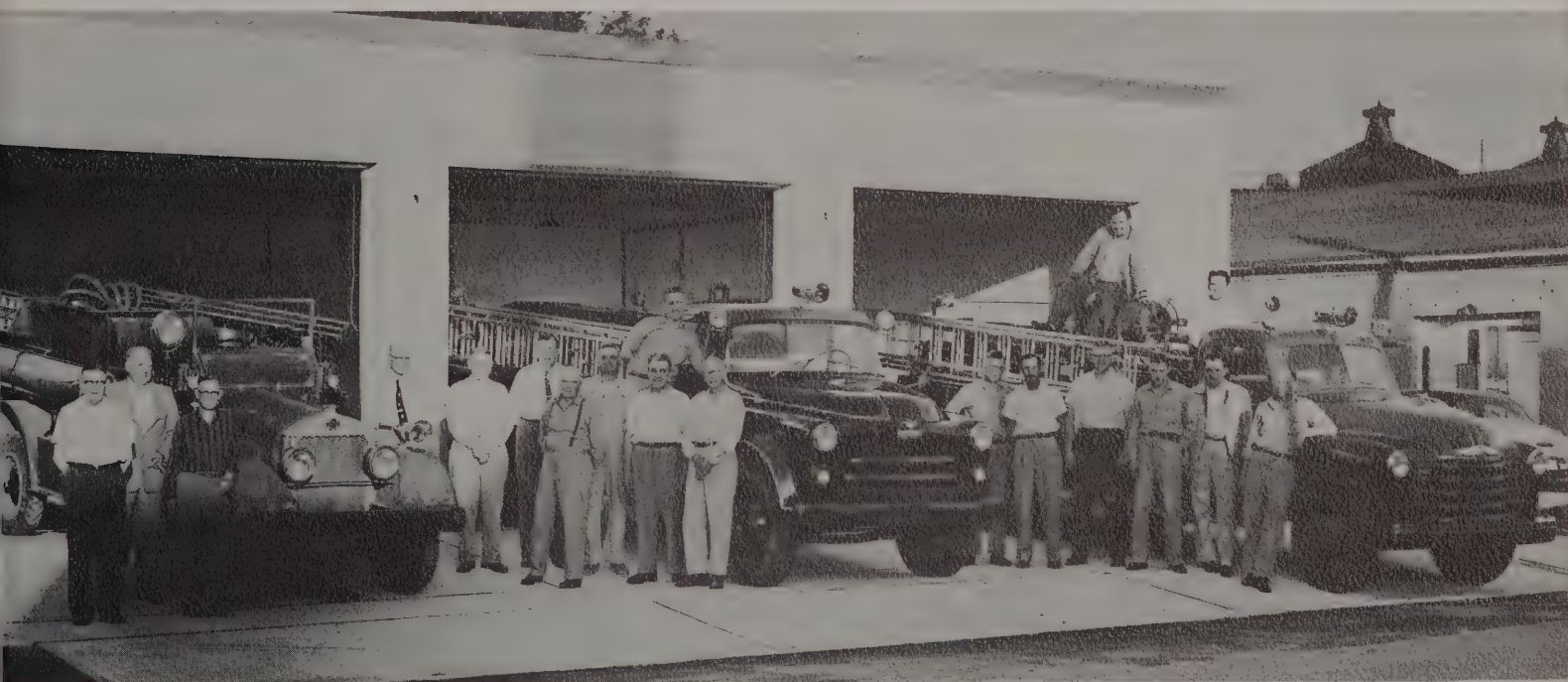
answer fire calls in the country as well as in town.

In 1948 another modern truck was purchased making it possible to leave the older truck in town for protection while fighting a country fire. In 1956, with the aid of surrounding townships, a Tanker was purchased capable of carrying 1200 gallons of water to be used for country fires.

The Village built a new fire house in 1956 to house all of the equipment; it also provided a meeting room for the members.

The present officers are: Chief, Edw. Tadsen; Assistant Chief, Wm. Pinske; Treasurer, Wm. Peik; Secretary, Eugene West. The latter two have served for over 40 years in their respective offices.

Contributed by Eugene West



Left to right: Eugene West, E. J. Mann, Othert Klitzke, Wm. Peik, P. L. Hakes, Robert Zimmerman, Sr., Barney Tadsen, Marvin Dennin, Gordon Wisdorf, Wm. Pinske, Emil Birkholz, Elmer Podratz, John Hagedorn, Robert Zimmerman, Jr., Charles Warner, Carl Hardel, Calvin West, Morris Gasow, Lester Alsleben.

The Birthday Club

Mrs. Adella Kay was the originator and first president of the Birthday Club which was organized on November 1, 1894. It is one of the oldest active clubs in Minnesota, celebrating its 63rd anniversary this fall.

It is strictly a social group, its members meeting to enjoy one another's company. Since this simple motive has resulted in so many years of continued existence apparently it is a very solid basis upon which to form a society.

There have been many changes in membership. In August 1955 the last charter member, Mrs. Foss, passed away.

The membership is limited to 12. In the beginning the hostess was presented with a silver spoon but that was discontinued. A dinner is served once a month, members furnishing the food and two serving the meal.

Entertainment has varied during the year, the current pastime being Canasta.

Submitted by Mrs. O. G. Zimmerman and Mrs. R. A. Zimmerman



THE BIRTHDAY CLUB — 1957

Sitting, left to right: Laura Engelsmier, Bessie Peik, Helen Seeland, Gertie Conrad, Bertha Zimmerman. Standing: Ezetta Plaisance, Alma Todd, Elsie Zimmerman, Elizabeth Zimmerman, Pearl West, Gretchen Mann.



THE ORIGINAL BIRTHDAY CLUB — 1894

Left to right, top row: Mrs. Madge West, Mrs. Anna Jensen, Mrs. George Butler, Mrs. Maurer. Sitting: Mrs. A. J. Foss, Mrs. Chas. Butler, Mrs. Kay (founder), Mrs. Bolles, Mrs. Lydia Hawley, Mrs. Lueneberg.



MRS. KAY

Baseball Then...1887

Baseball in and around Brownton for the past 70 years has been quite a popular sport. Back in the early days the playing field was on what was known as the Brownton herding grounds and located about 30 rods southeast of what is now the Weerts Drive In. As we remember, those active in the eighties were Elmer Lee, Herb Lee, Jay Mann, Lewis Phillips, Dick Ebling, Albert Grasinger, George Lee, Jim Lee, and A. A. Wilson.

Then as the years rolled along, George Thompson, Clayton Baker, Chas. Calkins, Frank Calkins, Wm. Grasinger, Roy West and Wm. Lundberg. And following still later, around the turn of the century was Wm. Peik, James Baker, Joe GeRoy, John Reil, Chas. Reil and Lewis Baker.

About 1905 a playing field in Brownton was hard to locate. A few games were played on a field just west of where Elmer's Service Station is located; and still later on the block on which the Methodist church now stands.

About 1904 Fred Karstens opened the Lake Marion resort and laid out what was at that time a very fine ball field. And from that time and for a number of years ball games were played at the lake field.

A Lake Marion team was organized and was made up of players from around the lake and players from Brownton. The following were on that team as time went on: James Mullin, Ferdinand Karstens, Leslie Karstens, Henry Seeland, Otto Seeland, Edward Tadsen, Wm. Peik, Lewis Baker, Wm. Lundberg, Andy Lundberg, the Knutson brothers — Christ, Harry and Gust, Wm. Pieton, Gene Pieton and Leo Valker. This team was a tough outfit and they won most of their games for several years.

With the beginning of World War I, sports of all kinds were curtailed to a



great extent, and there was little doing for a number of years. In the middle thirties our present athletic field was constructed and again sports began to appear. With this \$30,000 field and one of the finest in the state, with a covered grandstand and bleachers along first and third base to accommodate 1500, and with seats all protected with heavy netting and lighted for night games, sports began to come back in a big way.

For several years Brownton has had a team in the field, and they have been doing a real good job. In 1952 the team went to the state tournament and every year they have had a fine team in the field. This year they are again in the play, and have an ALL HOME team in action.

In writing this we feel that we have left out some of the players of years ago, but looking back to 70 years ago is no easy task.

And Now...1957



**CLASS A — 1956 TWIN TRAILS
PLAYOFF CHAMPS**

Front row, left to right: Radtke, 2b; Neil Katzenmeyer, RF; Warren West, 3b; Duane Schoenfelder, 1b; Merlin Klabunde, OF; Lowell Schatz, LF. Back row: Norman Gehrke, Gerald Hochsprung, pitcher and 1b; Delbert Klabunde, OF; Lyle Katzenmeyer, CF; Manager Henry Loncorich, C; Randy Harvey, SS; Joe Jenson, P. Front: Bat boy, Tommy Aisleben.

The Brownton Bulletin



O. C. CONRAD
Editor for 35 years

One of the pioneer concerns of the village, The Brownton Bulletin, is currently in its 65th year.

Down through the years the paper has kept pace with progress in the industry. Back on September 8, 1892, when R. H. Lueneburg put out the first issue, the paper consisted of four or six 5-column pages each week. Today The Bulletin prints eight 7-column pages each week.

Editors and publishers through the years include:

September 8, 1892—R. H. Lueneburg.

The Boy Scouts

Some accomplishments of the Boy Scouts during the spring of 1957: Helped clean up around bath house, pulled weeds, helped plant trees, carried out all picnic tables, washed both bath houses at the Brownton Rod & Gun Club's Lake Marion project. Are now working on homemade bases and painting the horseshoes. — The Brownton Bulletin.



PERCY HAKES, CARL HUBIN, CHAS. WARNER

1894—E. H. Lueneburg was taken into partnership, alternating as editor.

April 16, 1896—Foss & Wright, publishers; O. C. Conrad, editor.

October 20, 1898—S. G. Peterson, publisher; O. C. Conrad, editor.

January 14, 1899—O. H. Smith, publisher; A. C. Baker, editor.

April 15, 1899—O. C. Conrad, editor and publisher.

May 1, 1930—P. L. Hakes.

October, 1939—Milton D. Hakel.

October 1, 1948—Carl L. Hubin.

December 15, 1953—Chas. H. Warner.



Top row: Ronald Kelm, Marlin Matheny, Kenneth Schultz, Marlin Schauer, Charles Bartels, Myron Brown, Warren West, Scoutmaster. Bottom row: Robert Alsleben, Gary Waller, Jerry Matheny, Larry Matheny. Missing: Walter and David Horrmann, Sheridan Peterson.



OLD BUILDING
Built 1893

OLD LOBBY
Taken about 1917



First Bank Building and Lobby

1892 The First State Bank of Brownton 1957

On April 20, 1892, Mann, McClintock and Company, Bankers, opened their door for business. The capital was \$12,000.00 with a responsibility of \$25,000.00. The stockholders were Frank Mann, R. J. Mann, A. McClintock, P. L. Marden, Dr. D. W. Bolles, J. P. West, J. F. Beytien, Andrew Thompson, and Louis Ahlbrecht. The first officers were R. J. Mann, President; J. F. Beytien, Vice President; Frank Mann, Cashier, and A. McClintock, Assistant Cashier. The bank was one of the earlier banks and at present, the third oldest in the county. On December 31, 1901, the private bank of Mann, McClintock and Company was incorporated as The First State Bank of Brownton. R. J. Mann served as President of the bank from 1892 until 1939, the

time of his death; and Frank Mann served as Cashier from 1892 to September 1939 and as president from September 1939 until February 1940, the time of his death. In 1937 a new building was erected and was remodeled in 1956, which provides modern and efficient banking quarters. The present officers and directors are E. J. Mann, President; O. G. Zimmerman, Vice President; Ray Lindeman, Cashier; Carol Braun, Assistant Cashier; Myrtice Dahlke and Annette Mehlhop, Tellers and G. A. Mann, Director. The bank's total resources now are approximately one and three-quarter million dollars; and capital, surplus, undivided profits and reserves are \$135,000.00.



FRANK MANN
Founder
1892 - 1940



Built 1937



Brownton American Legion Edward Ewald Post No. 143

The Brownton American Legion Edward Ewald Post No. 143 was organized on September 1, 1919. It was named for Edward Ewald, a resident of this community, who served and gave his life for his country in the Argonne Forest Battle and died in France on October 11, 1918.

Application for a charter was made on September 1, 1919, and approved by the Department of Minnesota on September 5, 1919. Members who signed this charter were: Fay F. Clark, Earl L. Hall, Bruno C. Sell, W. F. Zander, L. E. Plaisance, A. R. Polfuss, Darrol O. Knoerr, J. W. Zieman, George J. Rolfs, Albert F. Schmidt, Wm. B. Klawitter, Bennett A. Zitlow, O. O. Rekow, O. H. Seeland and Ed. F. Helmer.

Doctor Luiten was elected Captain, Chas. P. Beyer, Treasurer, and Wm. Zander, secretary. Leo Plaisance, John Zieman and Fay Clark were selected to draw up a constitution and the by-laws.

The membership grew from the original fifteen to an all time high of eighty-seven, including World War I and World War II veterans.

In 1934, on September 15, the post went on record as sponsoring a school patrol and has continued this project ever since.

In 1946, on October 18, the post voted to be incorporated and on October 23, the articles of incorporation were filed.

Sponsoring Junior Legion baseball and Boy Scouts are also projects of the post.

A number of boys, under the sponsorship of the local post, have been sent to Boys State and to the school patrol camp (Legionville). The post has continually made donations to deserving groups and individuals from funds raised from the annual dance and duck parties.

On November 14, 1955, the local post became a member of the McLeod County Council which consists of the eight posts in the county. At present we have one member serving as officer of this organization.

The post has taken part in the Memorial Day exercises and at the funerals of veterans.

Current membership consists of 77 members, who served during World War I, World War II and the Korean Police Action.

For the past 29 years this post has held its regular monthly meetings on the third Tuesday night of the month in the post club rooms.

The present officers are: LeRoy Streseman, Commander; Richard Gehrke, First Vice Commander; Paul Martin, Second Vice Commander; Magnus Redman, Finance Officer; Raymond Streu, Sergeant at Arms; Henry Selle, Service Officer; Marvin Spaude, Child Welfare Officer; Warren West, Post Athletic Officer; Raymond Lindeman, Auditing Chairman; Marvin Dennin, Chaplain; Lester Alsleben, Post Historian, and Carl Hardel, Adjutant.



EDWARD EWALD

American Legion Auxiliary

The Ladies Auxiliary of the Edward Ewald Post No. 143, Department of Minnesota, was organized in February, 1923. An invitation was extended to the sisters, wives, mothers and daughters of the Legionnaires to meet at the home of Mrs. Ilse Luiten. A charter was signed by the following: Ilse Luiten, Ruth West, Minnie Zander, Emma Belter, Francis Sell, Lulu Etter, Geneva Buhr, Ezetta Plaisance, Matilda Yeschich, Ethel Urbach, Ella Schmidt, Marion Handke, Irma Klawitter, Dorothy Peters, and Florence Engstrand.

The first officers were: President, Ilse Luiten; Vice President, Emma Belter; Secretary, Ezetta Plaisance; Treasurer, Geneva Buhr; Executive Committee, Florence Engstrand, Francis Sell, and Minnie Zander.

The Auxiliary has been and still is a service organization. Throughout the years their continuous donations to veterans and veterans' families has been the outstanding work. Some of the pro-

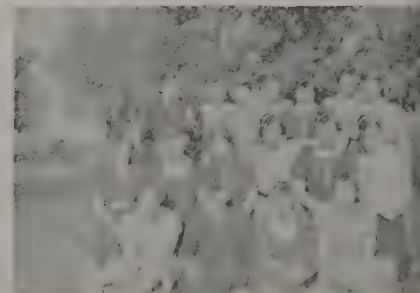
jects that have been carried on since its organization are: The annual sale of Poppies, which furnishes employment and a livelihood for disabled veterans; they have assisted the Legion Post in Memorial Day services honoring the war dead; wreaths and sprays have been made annually to decorate the graves of veterans. One of the outstanding community projects in recent years has been the purchase of a wheel chair and hospital bed for the use in the community.

The Auxiliary meets on the second Tuesday of every month, as it has for the past 34 years. Its present officers are: President, Mrs. Ray Lindeman; First Vice President, Mrs. Othbert Klitzke; Second Vice President, Mrs. Gordon Wisdorf; Secretary, Mrs. Carl Hardel; Treasurer, Mrs. Lester Alsleben; Executive Committee; Mrs. Marie LaValley, Mrs. Fred Peterson, and Past President, Mrs. Erna Crawford.



PRESENT OFFICERS

Mrs. Othbert Klitzke, 1st V. President; Mrs. Ray Lindeman, President; Mrs. Carl Hardel, Secretary; Mrs. Gordon Wisdorf, 2nd V. President; Mrs. Lester Alsleben, Treasurer; Mrs. Fred Peterson and Mrs. Marie LaValley, Exec. Committee; Mrs. Erna Crawford, Past President.



AUXILIARY 1940 - 1941

Odd Fellows Lodge



OLD ODD FELLOWS BUILDING

A State Charter was presented to Lake Addie Lodge No. 78 of Brownton in July, 1880. The first records were dated Aug. 7, 1880. The Installing officer was G. S. Ives, N. G., of Hutchinson. The Charter Members were H. B. Bartlett, J. B. Hewitt, E. N. Swan, A. D. Swan and J. B. Zimmerman. Over the past 76 years there have been 241 members in the Lodge.

The first building was erected about 1884 where the new fire house now stands. Later it was moved to Main Street, housing the U. S. Post Office, a community Hall, lodge rooms and the I.O.O.F., and other organizations.

On October 9, 1910 this building was



PRESENT ODD FELLOWS BUILDING

destroyed by fire. The I.O.O.F. erected the present building in 1911.

On December 22, 1947, Lake Addie Lodge No. 78 voted to merge with Guardian Lodge No. 149 of the Masonic Order, in a joint ownership of the building. Whereupon, the building was given extensive repair, newly redecorated and modernized. The U. S. Post Office and Brownton Bulletin occupy the first floor of the building. One office and the lodge rooms are on the upper floor.

About 1893 or 1894 a Rebecca Lodge was organized and active for some years, but finally disbanded.

— Submitted by Roscoe Dwinneel

Harvest Grange

A grange of "The Patrons of Husbandry" was organized by Geo. I. Parsons, grand master, at the Ogilvie school Aug. 22, 1873. It was named "Harvest Grange" and started with 30 members. Wm. D. Chase was secretary. Aug. 28, 1874, they had a banquet and dance at the cheese factory.

On Oct. 4th, Mr. Chase was killed by lightning. He was the grandfather of Ralph and Roscoe Dwinneel. The world famous Hutchinson Singers drove the 16 miles to furnish the music at his funeral.

Guardian Lodge No. 149

On January 13, 1882, a charter was granted to a group of Masons authorizing them to organize a Masonic Lodge at Brownton to be designated as Guardian Lodge No. 149, A.F. & A. M. Charter members were A. L. Hall, C. W. Snere, T. C. Arnold, Fred B. Griebie, H. A. Sauer, John M. Kisner, Christian Etter, A. B. Applin, Calvin W. Phillips, Louis Armstrong, D. B. Johns, John R. Bell, James Louis, John Ives, Amos Buckland and A. L. Brown.

Out of this group Brother A. L. Hall was selected as the first Worshipful Master, C. W. Snere the first Senior Warden, and T. C. Arnold the first Junior Warden. Brother A. L. Brown was acting secretary at the first meeting and at that time a set of by-laws was approved and adopted.

At the present time Guardian Lodge has 93 members. Three of these members, Brothers, G. W. Dwinnell, Alfred Johnson and Henry Ewald, have belonged continuously for over 50 years.

Many prominent men of our community of the past were members of the Lodge, such as Martin Ewald, P. B. Jensen, Isaac

Cowle, Frank Mann, P. J. Kaer, E. E. Griebie and Isaac Kaplan, just to mention a few.

In the year 1947 Stewart Lodge No. 229 gave up its charter and consolidated with Guardian Lodge. Since that time the Stewart brothers have been taking a major part in the activities of the Lodge.

For many years the Lodge held its meetings in the upper story of the old drug store building, but in the year 1948, through arrangements with the I.O.O.F. Lodge, Guardian Lodge moved to the I.O.O.F. building. Adah Chapter, O.E.S., also uses the Lodge room for its meetings.

Since its organization the Lodge has contributed to many worthy causes such as Masonic Home, Masonic Relief Association, and recently the Masonic Memorial Cancer Fund.

The present officers are: Allyn R. Ahlers, Worshipful Master; Bernard Cranston, Senior Warden; Dr. Keith Griebie, Junior Warden; William Peik, Secretary; and E. J. Mann, Treasurer.

— William Peik

Good Templars Lodge



About 1891 a Good Templars Lodge was in existence. There was a large membership as the above picture indicates, but no information is available.

Eastern Star

Adah Chapter No. 31, Order of the Eastern Star, was organized in February, 1900. The earliest members were Thomas C. Arnold, Sarah Arnold, Alonzo Brown, Bedina Brown, Frederick Griebie, Augusta Griebie, Nina Foss, A. J. Foss, Minnie Etter, Lola Ives, Ida Bell, John R. Bell, R. S. Donaldson, Christian Etter, Peder Jensen, Anna Jensen, Merna Kisner and John Kisner.

This organization is dedicated to "Truth, Charity and Loving Kindness." It has for its inspiration the "Star in the East." The purpose of the Order is to help make this world a better place in which to live. It is not founded upon material things but something within the heart that inspires us to greater aspirations. It has a world membership of over three million with 307 chapters in Minnesota.

Its important projects are Cancer Research, Blood Bank, Red Cross, Overseas Clothing, Military and Veteran's Service, Minnesota Masonic Home at Savage and the Eastern Star Training Awards for Religious Leadership. The training awards went to deserving young people to help them attain their education for religious leadership. Last year \$10,600 was awarded to 54, without discriminations as to church affiliations. They came from the Metho-

dist, Congregational, Lutheran, Episcopal, Church of Christ, Baptist, Evangelical and Reformed, Ev. Free Church, and Ev. United Brethren.

Adah Chapter has had one Grand Representative, Linnie Vaughn, Grand Chaplin of the Grand Chapter of Minnesota.

There are two living 50-year members, Louise Ewald Kohler and Ole Johnson.

The 1957 officers are:

Grace Spaude	Worthy Matron
Ervin Peik	Worthy Patron
Lois Williamson	Associate Matron
Thos. Williamson	Associate Patron
Violet Peik	Secretary
Virginia Baker	Treasurer
Katherine Twite	Conductress
Gretchen Mann	Associate Conductress
Blanche Kaplan	Chaplain
Gertrude Knick	Marshal
Bessie Peik	Organist
Ezetta Plaisance	Adah
Bertha Martin	Ruth
Ida Ewald	Esther
Ella Peik	Martha
Esther Ahlers	Electra
Ida Scrimgeour	Warden
Benj. Peik	Sentinel

— Mrs. Ida Ewald

Progressive and Other Clubs

A social organization known as the "Progressive Club" was started in 1920 and is still active.

The charter members were Mrs. Wm. Zander, Mrs. Ray Luiten, Mrs. Gene West, Mrs. Les Karstens, Mrs. Otto Sell, Mrs. Fred Martinson, Mrs. Spiro, Mrs. Robert Stressman and Mrs. Fred Etter.

The present membership is made up of Mrs. Bert Sommerdorf, Mrs. John Zieman, Mrs. W. A. Scrimgeour, Mrs. A. M. Jensen, Mrs. Melvin Todd, Mrs. Walter Lang, Miss Virginia Baker and Mrs. L. A. Kulas.

Other clubs now active are: The Friendship Club, The Sewing Club, and The Bridge Club.



Left, around the table: Mrs. B. E. Sommerdorf, Virginia Baker, Luella Zieman, Alma Todd, Bessie Peik, Martha Lang, Ida Scrimgeour, Leola Kulas.

Items of Interest

1892

Brown's 2nd Addition and Sturdivant's Addition were platted.

First issue of "The Brownnton Bulletin" was published with 400 subscriptions.

Pollock Avenue was opened up north across the tracks.

New buildings were Mann, McClintock & Co., Bank, Gold & Co. lumber sheds, Episcopal Church, German Methodist Church, Altnow Livery Barn, Printing Office.

The Congregational Church had a bazaar and served a supper for which they charged 15 cents.

1893

Bohn & Maurer store opened.

C. W. Altnow erected a building 18' x 64' on the corner of Grimshaw Avenue and Nelson Street.

"Sons of Herman" was organized.

A. O. U. W. Lodge was organized.

\$125 was appropriated for a new bridge across Buffalo Creek.

Tickets to Chicago, World's Fair rate, round trip—\$17.65.

The H. J. Smith livery barn burned.

Brownnton Illustrated was published.

1894

The first Monthly Market Day was started by the Brownnton Livestock Association.

A brass band was organized. Good Templars Lodge was organized. Brownnton Birthday Club organized.

1895

World famous Hutchinson Singers gave a concert in the Odd Fellows Hall.

Drainage system established on Pollock Avenue.

New buildings: Maurer's store (at present Zimmerman Co.), D. Y. Butler (Kaplin's), J. S. West, house; Jackson Bros., two houses; J. C. Root, dwelling (later the Lutheran parsonage).

Foss & Lloyd's Furniture Store, Maurer and Reinke's general store, "Brownnton Hardware", D. Y. and G. R. Butler proprietors.

Sorghum factory output between 600 and 700 gallons. Contract let for Brownnton system of water works to cost \$5,985.

Fred Brown sold the first brass trimmed iron bed ever seen around here.

Geo. Ullman started a butcher shop. No skating on Lake Addie, it was so dry. Could walk across in places.

1896

Creamery established. First buttermaker—Mr. Karlen. Joe Zander opened a lumber yard. Peter Jensen severed connection with the Libby & Thompson lumber yard. D. B. Johns took over.

District Convention of I. O. G. T. met here. Order of Woodmen organized. Brownnton Bulletin sold to Foss and Wright. Kindergarten school during the summer.

Rebecca Lodge was organized; also a "Society for Doing Charitable Work."

1897

Because of heavy snows trains go west to Milbank and turn around. Kickapoo Indian Medicine show ran three days.

Celebrated the Fourth, windstorm with 3 inches of hail. R. V. Alexander built a new home on farm just across lake (White place). Zella Newcomb studying art in Paris. Telephone poles set around town. The Albreicht mill burned.

Births: To the S. S. Beaches, triplets; two girls and a boy.

1898

Butler & Grashong (general merchandise) sold to Hogle and Sampson. Woman's Auxiliary Circle of Congregational Church organized. Bohn's Store (general merchandise) sold to Hagemann & Krause. H. W. Beck took over management of lumber yard.

Elevator in west end of town burned. Village purchased a fire bell. Chicamauga Circle of G.A.R. organized. C. F. Buechler started "Maine Hotel." James Bradford Baker only graduate.

Bulletin sold to S. G. Peterson.

1899

Bulletin sold by S. G. Peterson to O. H. Smith. New Year masquerade ball in Neitzel's hall. Peter Jensen sold his interest in the lumber business of Jensen and Zander to Robert Zander. Organized: a children's chorus club.

John Shumm opened a cigar factory. 30 degrees below zero. Archareno Club started in I.O.O.F. hall—meets once a week. James Bohn bought out Hgamann and Krause and has gone back in the store as proprietor.

1900

C. Nygaard bought Nels Nelson's jewelry stock. After 17 years in business Joseph Yuly sold his meat market to Frank Groth. H. J. Tomson is the new butter maker. M. B. West and A. J. Foss opened a store at Bath, S. Dak., and have moved there. Curfew was established.

City Hall was being constructed. E. J. Kay, station agent, was moved to Hutchinson. Ava Wilson in charge here.

1901

Royal Neighbors lodge organized. Peter Jensen purchased the lumber yard from Zander Bros. Store of M. K. Bowen sold to Streich and Zander. Fred Smith of Round Grove sold his farm at \$35.00 per acre—\$3,600—a good farm. D. Y. Butler sold his hardware store to N. E. Steele. Post Office opened 7:30 a.m. No money orders sold after 7:00 p.m. Local telephone exchange installed.

Two days of much enjoyment for the "Boys in Blue" at the G.A.R. Encampment, July 17 and 18. James Bohn has added a cash register to his store equipment. A transient came down with small pox and was housed in a quickly devised house-of-detention. He died. Several families were quarantined because of exposure.

1902

"Order of Maccabees" organized. Stewart and Brownnton Odd Fellow lodges consolidated. Local telephone exchange completed.

1903

The firm of Streich and Zander dissolved, the firm to be known thereafter as Zander and Zimmerman.

1904

Frank Groth built a brick meat market. During the last three years Brownnton has had one of the best gun clubs of any town club in these parts.

The Milwaukee Road will be continued to Seattle.

1905

Brownnton Improvement Association formed, with meetings third Monday of each month. Fee \$2.50. Farmers' Institute meeting held here. "West & Son" firm to be changed to West and Holmes. Chicamauga served a supper in the Odd Fellows Hall for which the prices were 25 cents adults, 10 cents for children.

A tennis club was organized. City water tank standing on the Shilling place overflowed on Phillip Smith's house, doing some damage. Suit against the city for damages to the amount of \$1,150.00. City annexed area of land joining the village on southeast.

1906

W. G. Sturdivant became owner of the J. H. GeRoy barber business. Hans Ewald purchased the D. W. Bolles home and is moving into town. Dr. Edmund Maurer has taken over Dr. Bolles' practice. The 1906 G.A.R. Encampment was held in Brown-ton. The Block system was installed by the R. R. Co. A dancing club of 25 members was organized. Work began on the new power house. A local band was organized. Market report: Wheat, 66 to 69 cents, Rye 47 cents, barley 36 cents, butter 16 to 18 cents, hens 5 cents, chickens 6 cents, eggs 24 cents, flax \$1.00 to \$1.08, hogs \$5 to \$5.25 per cwt.

1907

Feb. 8—The thermometer registered from 28 to 35 degrees below. Minnesota Sunday School Association Institute held here. No smoking in the post office lobbies by order of the Postmaster General. First social ever given by the men around here took place in the hall for the benefit of the Congrega-tional church.

1908

Bohn's store was sold to the Brown-ton Mercantile Co., Otto Sell, manager. New fire alarm whistle installed. Irving R. Anderson took over the drug store. A. F. Feinberg opens a jewelry store. A village library has been started, sponsored by the Study Club. Brown-ton Produce Co. opened for business

1910

Commercial Hotel opened. Entire Shilling farm for sale. Village purchased a street sweeper. There was a rear end collision of two freight trains. A disastrous fire took the Odd Fellows Hall which housed the post office, Underwood blacksmith shop, West photograph gallery and City restaurant.

1911

Now running through trains from Chicago to the Pacific coast—the Columbian and Olympian. The remaining 34 acres of the Brown estate were sold to Zimmerman and the Zimmerman Addition was platted. The last bit of board walk—south end of Pollock Avenue—was torn up. New Odd Fellows Hall was rebuilt.

1912

The firm of Zander and Zimmerman dissolved and the store goes on under the name of "Zimmer-man & Co." The new Odd Fellows Hall was dedi-cated. It was designed by P. B. Jensen and built at a cost of about \$7,000.00. The old city hall was sold to Nick Tadsen for \$235.00. It was then sold to Al Smith and moved to the east part of town.

F. M. Hickman took over the drug store. The bell system was installed at the three railroad crossings. Miss Frances Schilling made a trip to Europe. The new electric light plant went into operation. Bonds for \$2,500.00 were voted to com-plete the new city hall and electric light system. Ava Wilson, depot operator, was transferred to the Glencoe office.

1913

New City Hall opening. W. D. Smith operator at the depot. Otto Sell purchased the old Lloyd building, corner of Pollock Avenue and Nelson Street, took it down and erected a new building. An entertainment and educational course was pro-moted. The village issued \$25,000 worth of bonds to build a new school house. A "Co-operative Creamery Association" was organized. Parcel post service started.

Vote for school bond was rescinded at a special meeting. The William Volkman took over the Commercial Hotel. A School Fair was a very suc-cessful event. Otto Selle opened his new store for business. Price of shares went up from 10 cents to 15 cents. Lecture course of four numbers being promoted. Adult tickets \$1.50, children 75 cents. J. L. Kritzeck bought out the Feinberg jewelry stock. Bulletin office moved from west side of street to present quarters.

1914

A new railroad bridge was put in across Buffalo Creek. The Brown-ton Improvement Association ar-ranged an all-day auto tour to neighboring towns—Winthrop, Lafayette, New Ulm, Fort Ridgely, Fair-fax, Gibbon and Fernando.

Burglars broke into Prah's hardware and made away with about \$250.00 worth of loot. The Brown-ton Birthday club celebrated its 20th anniversary. The dance given by the Komonalong club the best attended of any this year.

1915

The G.A.R. Encampment was held here June 24-25. From The Hutchinson Leader: "Brown-ton raised \$300.00 in an hour for the County G.A.R. Encampment and the way people over there hustled for us old soldiers warms the cockles of our hearts towards them. Where is the town of ten times the size that can beat Brown-ton towards the G.A.R. boys?" The Zander & Hills new garage, corner of Nelson and Grimshaw opened.

F. W. Hickman bought the drug store back from Mr. Sauer. Morgan Post G.A.R. Drum Corps of Min-neapolis here for the encampment, June 24 and 25. Lake Marion road being put into shape. J. F. Ziedler left to accept a position as cashier of the University State Bank, Minneapolis. His nephew, R. J. Zeidler, will take his place as cashier of Brown-ton State Bank. The Ladies Auxiliary has taken up the matter of keeping Oak Grove Cemetery in order.

The depot was moved to the south of the new track and the two waiting rooms connected. A sewer was laid from the corner of Leighton Avenue and Merrill St. westward to the railroad right-of-way, following on down to Lake Addie. Interior Lumber Co. started a business south of Tadsen's elevator. "Brown-ton Base Ball Tossers" gave a benefit dance to raise money for some much needed equipment. University week was observed with a fine program—afternoon and evening—for six days.

1920

W. J. Volkenan purchased the furniture store of R. J. Podratz. The organization of the McLeod County Legion Post May 9 at Glencoe. O. O. Vaughn entertained the butter makers of District Unit No. 21. Mr. Vaughn won the contest to land the high score of 94 points.

The Women's Welfare League has been highly commended for the work they have accomplished in "making Oak Grove Cemetery one of the beauty spots about Brown-ton." There are 31 more people living in Brown-ton than in 1910. Increased from 509 to 540—Stewart also numbered 540 according to the census. "The Community Fair was a hum-mer." The Brown-ton Community booth won first place at the County Fair. Anchor Nelsen's pig won third place at the National Swine Show at Des Moines. Prize was a handsome gold watch.

"School district must take action for school im-provements or be taken from the graded school list." It did. Election was held; 190 votes—159 in favor, 31 against.

1921

Eighth annual dance given by the Brown-ton Fire Department was a most pleasing function. Re-ceipts \$189. The firm doing business under the name of Prah & Jeffers dissolved and the business continued under the name of "The Brown-ton Hard-ware." The annual reports of the Commercial Club,

Farmers Shipping Association, Brown-ton Co-operative Creamery, Equity Shipping Association, Village Fire Department all showed a healthy progress. The Fire Department considered changing its by-laws to make the membership from 30 to 40.

Dr. G. A. Miners began practice in town, but at the end of six months went to Deer River. Dental Clinic held at school, directed by Dr. West of Stewart. Creamery Assn. held a picnic on the creamery grounds and in the park. F. A. Schrupp disposed of his stock of merchandise to Goodman Bros. & Spiro of Waconia. The Schrupps moved to Arlington. Second Annual Community Fair was a huge success. A military funeral was held Oct. 20 paying honor to Edward August Ewald who gave his life for his country near Gesnes, France. New school, new site in sight. \$3,000 bonds voted to purchase the land.

1922

At a special election \$22,000 additional school bonds were voted. This gives the board \$50,000 to erect and equip the new building. Bonds were voted for money to buy the strip of land extending south from the south end of Pollock Avenue to site of new school. The road will cost about \$1,000.00.

The home talent play, "Mrs. Temple's Telegram" drew a large crowd both evenings it was played and netted the sum of \$163.50 which was divided equally between the "Women's Welfare League" and the "Library Association." Wm. Volkman sold his furniture store to C. H. Peters and son Franklin. Third Annual Community Fair held Sept. 14 was a great success. After two weeks delay, school was opened in the new building. Dr. E. L. Maurer passed away at Eitel hospital Oct. 22. Village indebtedness reduced over \$5,000.00.

1923

The old school house was sold to John Reil of Collins for \$658.00 and the lot to a holding committee for \$900. This committee will hold the property until the village is in position to take it over for a park. Everybody is summoned to help clean up the city park. The entire community paid its respects Wednesday, May 30, to the Civil, Spanish and World War veterans. American Legion Auxiliary was organized.

The first commencement exercises held in the new building took place June 1st. Also the first annual Baccalaureate Service for our high school was observed May 27th. This is the first senior class to graduate from a four-year high school course. The first graduates from the full course were Clara Zitlow, Hazel Amundson, Ruth Newcomb, Margaret Wendland, Wilbur Bipes, Milan Booth, Harold Hein, Theodore Damask, Ancher Nelsen and Fred Sommerdorf.

F. M. Martinson is the depot agent at the present time. The third annual Creamery Picnic in the village was a big affair. An entirely new set of directors for Independent School District No. 9 were elected. They were Herman Selle, Chas. Sommerdorf, J. S. West, Frank Mann, O. G. Zimmerman and T. F. Damask. Streets are oil treated, paid for by popular subscription.

The third annual school carnival broke all previous records—gross earning nearly \$275.00.

Brown-ton entertained County School officers Nov. 10; 160 officers present.

1924

West and Johnson purchased the hardware stock of M. B. West. Edward and Paul Tadsen purchased the local filling station from the Brown-ton Oil Co. Dr. A. A. Rankin bought out the medical practice of Dr. O. J. Engstrand. A series of 16 outdoor movies will be presented, backed by a group of business men. Fire department purchased a siren.

Burglars entered the First State Bank Sept. 3, where they attempted the first bank robbery in Brown-ton's history. They were driven off by Henry Seeland who kept up a steady fire on them from

an upper story window in his building across the street. The 4th Annual School Carnival was a huge success. Gross receipts \$308.00. Brown-ton entertained the 14th annual meeting of the State Yellowstone Trail Association.

1925

The annual doings of the Fire Department eclipsed any previous efforts when they put on a show to a packed house Thursday evening. Total receipts—\$268.20. The firm doing business under the name of "Belter and Stoeckman" dissolved partnership and is continued by Mr. Stoeckman. O. O. Vaughn, butter maker at the Brown-ton Creamery, brought national fame to the institution when he won second place in the National contest.

Merrill street is being cut down to a grade level, as it is the new routing through the village of the trunk highway system. Grimshaw Avenue was regraded. Fred Seeland purchased the Commercial Hotel from G. E. Horman.

1926

The friendship tour of the Minneapolis business men stopped here for a 25-minute program on Main street. The Women's Welfare League placed a lattice fence along the south and west sides of the City Hall grounds, converting the space into a fine little park. Dr. L. A. Weissgerber has opened an office in rooms back of the drug store. The Village is out of debt.

1927

Dr. R. E. Luiten sold his dental practice to Dr. Cleary Fredell and moved to Mora, Minn. The B. C. C. bought road signs and installed at intersections and wherever needed. R. W. Hanke resigned as school superintendent. Will go to Elk River. F. T. Buechler was appointed superintendent of the Sioux City and Dakota Division of the Milwaukee road. Village streets get an oiling.

1928

Brown-ton Concert Band reorganized and will have a 30-piece band. Dr. L. A. Wessgerber moved to New Ulm where he will continue his practice of medicine. The first annual meeting of the Alumni Association took place June 23. Ninety were present. Dr. D. D. Remple located here. The Edward Ewald Post is sponsoring the United Chautauqua appearance here June 19-22. Was well attended.

The fifth son of Rev. Geo. Diemer to be ordained into the Lutheran ministry was Adolph Diemer and from the same school, St. Paul Lutheran college, from which his father graduated. A feed mill and feed store was built north of the Brown-ton Hardware. The local post of the American Legion received national recognition for its outstanding activities the past year. Dr. C. J. Fredell is the Commander. Brown-ton's nine-hole golf course, which was laid out this spring, is proving very popular. There are 35 members to date. Ferdinand Engelsmeier disposed of his milk route to C. A. Somerdorf. Village council buys a new fire truck.

1929

Lake Addie Lodge No. 78, I.O.O.F., of this village entertained the other lodges in the nearby towns. Thirteen of the Girl Scout Troop, under the leadership of Mrs. Lenora Karstens, received second class badges. Three others received tenderfoot badges.

Due to the fact there are so many robberies and hold-ups the local Legion Post has organized the post into gun squads.

Arrangements are being made for this community to erect a permanent marker where the White family was massacred on Sept. 22, 1862. The Buhr Lumber Company sells its yard and the Buhr family is moving to Stewart. Mr. August Bielke has taken over the management. The Rural Mail Carriers held their annual county convention in this village

June 1st. The 8th Annual Tour of the State Historical Society stopped in Brownton on June 14, long enough to hold a short ceremony at the scene of the White massacre.

The High School Alumni Assn. met Saturday evening, June 15, with about 75 in attendance. City water works pressure tank blew up Nov. 3. A mass meeting was called Nov. 12 to discuss the question of repairs on the pumping system. F. F. Zander, son of the Jo Zanders of this city, was elected junior vice president of the Marquette National Bank of Minneapolis. The Brownton Birthday Club celebrated its 35th anniversary.

1930

Farmers Institute was held in Brownton March 5th, with 150 attending. The highlight for the village was the return of a town boy as the speaker, Dr. Elvin C. Stokman. With the March 27, 1930 issue of the Bulletin the present editor, O. C. Conrad, ceased his editorship after 34 years at the helm. The paper was leased to Lloyd A. Hakes. F. C. Groth rounded out his 30th year as proprietor of the City Meat Market.

April 17—Percy L. Hakes becomes the editor of The Bulletin, taking over from his brother, L. A. Hakes, who becomes associated with the "Park Region Echo" at Alexandria. Village sells the pole line to Northern States Power Co.

1932 and 1933

Brownton State Bank closed. Brownton won the 12th District championship, the second time in four years. 12th District Champs were honored at a public appreciation program. Depositors of the First State Bank held a meeting at the City Hall for the purpose of reorganizing the institution. It was closed since the National Moratorium declaration. After 25 years of service on the Board of Education, John S. West is succeeded by Wm. Peik.

1934

C. G. Haugen opened a grocery store in the original Bulletin office. Junior Women's Study club was organized. Mayor Wm. Knick died after being in office four months. Chas. Schlink was appointed to fill the vacancy. Brownton held a Community Day celebration Aug. 23rd. Brownton was crowned "Diamond Ball Champions of McLeod County."

1935

Percy Hakes is the new postmaster to succeed Miss Anna Baker, who has been in office since 1915. She served for 20 years and under five presidents. Ancher Nelsen elected State Senator.

1936

Keith Griebie was awarded first place in the District 12 Declamation contest and Herbert Zaske won a second—both from the Brownton school. With the Oct. 8 issue, the Bulletin will start upon its 45th year. On his 4-H club record, Herbert Zaske was awarded the week's trip to the Farm Boys' Camp at the State Fair.

1937

The Brownton Oil Co., owned by Ed and Paul Tadsen, dissolved partnership. Paul Tadsen becomes sole owner. Because the Brownton Post was the first to go over the top in its membership, it led the parade at the First District Legion Convention in South St. Paul June 12, 13, 14.

Ninety graduates attended the Alumni banquet. Ladies of all churches in Brownton tendered the Rev. and Mrs. Weerts a farewell surprise party July 22. Elmer C. Schatz was crowned "Grand and Exalted King of the Sauerkraut Eaters" at the Sauerkraut Festival at Henderson. Formal opening of the new bank building; 600 attended.

1938

The school district No. 9 buys a bus. Elmer Schatz again won the Sauerkraut Eating contest.

1939

A chicken hatchery was started by John Padrnos. Brownton won 3rd place in the basketball tournament. A new produce station opened for business in the Schatz Feed Mill under the management of Newman Staupé. The City Meat Market, which has been in the hands of the F. C. Groth family for 39 years, has been sold to Wm. Pinske of Arlington.

Two new school buses will soon be in service. The flower show, sponsored by the Junior Women's Study Club, met with such favor it was held over three days. Henry Loncorich gets All-District honors—was named to the All-District team after the championship game, Nov. 1. Milton Hakel has become editor and publisher of The Bulletin.

1940

Harold Peik purchased the Eiseleins Store. The Brownton automatic dial telephone system was put into use Feb. 20. Hans Ewald, the oldest resident of Brownton, died April 2 at the age of 96 years. Carol Holmes wins state speaking title in the Minnesota Farm Bureau Women's Public Speaking Contest at the State Fair.

There are no Bulletin files available for the next few years

1949

Additional bond issue for \$20,000 to be used for building purposes was passed. Lyle Katzenmeyer is training with the St. Louis Cardinals at Albany, Georgia. The addition to the school was dedicated Nov. 30. The auditorium-gymnasium was erected at a cost of \$20,000.00. City Meat Market and Locker Plant held open house to demonstrate the plant. Women's Welfare League instrumental in getting a warming house at the skating rink. Latvian DPs first to arrive in this community through L.R.B.

1950

P. L. Hakes appointed rural carrier; Martin Lindeman new acting postmaster. Sponsored by the P.T.A., Virginia Safford appeared here in a program Jan. 31. High school band receives "A" rating at festival. Local woman elected to head District PTA Association. Ralph and Roscoe Dwinnell went to St. Peter to meet their cousin, Countess Estelle Bernadotte, who was there to attend the dedication of a memorial library to her husband, Count Bernadotte. O. G. Zimmerman has retired from his connection with Zimmerman & Co. Ted Damask sets up Achievement Fund in memory of his father.

1951

Summer recreation program started. Kay Ellen Clasen is winner of county pie baking contest. Dr. N. E. Neslund left Brownton to continue his dental practice at Robbinsdale. Dr. R. Bakke moved in to take over. Reorganization of school districts is now the burning question. Vote for school reorganization lost by small majority.

1952

Farmers call meeting for another reorganization vote. Dr. George Mecklenberg gave a lecture to an appreciative audience on March 5. 4-H club leaders were recognized at a banquet given in their honor at the Immanuel Lutheran Church Feb. 23. Henry Streich retires after holding office in Penn Township for 54 years—2 years as treasurer, 5 years as supervisor, and 47 years as town clerk.

T/Sgt. Lyle C. Phillips lost his life when a bomber he was on was accidentally shot down over the Gulf of Mexico. Brownton got to play in the State Tournament. Mrs. Justine Molls was feted on her 100th anniversary October 18.

Acknowledgements

Limited space makes it impossible to have a complete history. Many names that should have appeared are not in the record; that there are inaccuracies due to lack of information is inevitable. Much was taken directly from Capt. A. L. Brown's account in "Brownton Illustrated" and from Win V. Working's articles (by permission of the Glencoe Enterprise), also interviews with those whose memories carry them far back into the past.

To all who so kindly helped with pictures, information and generous contributions of time and labor to make this publication possible we wish to extend our thanks.

PEARL BELL WEST, Editor

Centennial Committee —

A. A. Redmann

Ray Lindeman

Curtis Tongen

Magnus Redmann



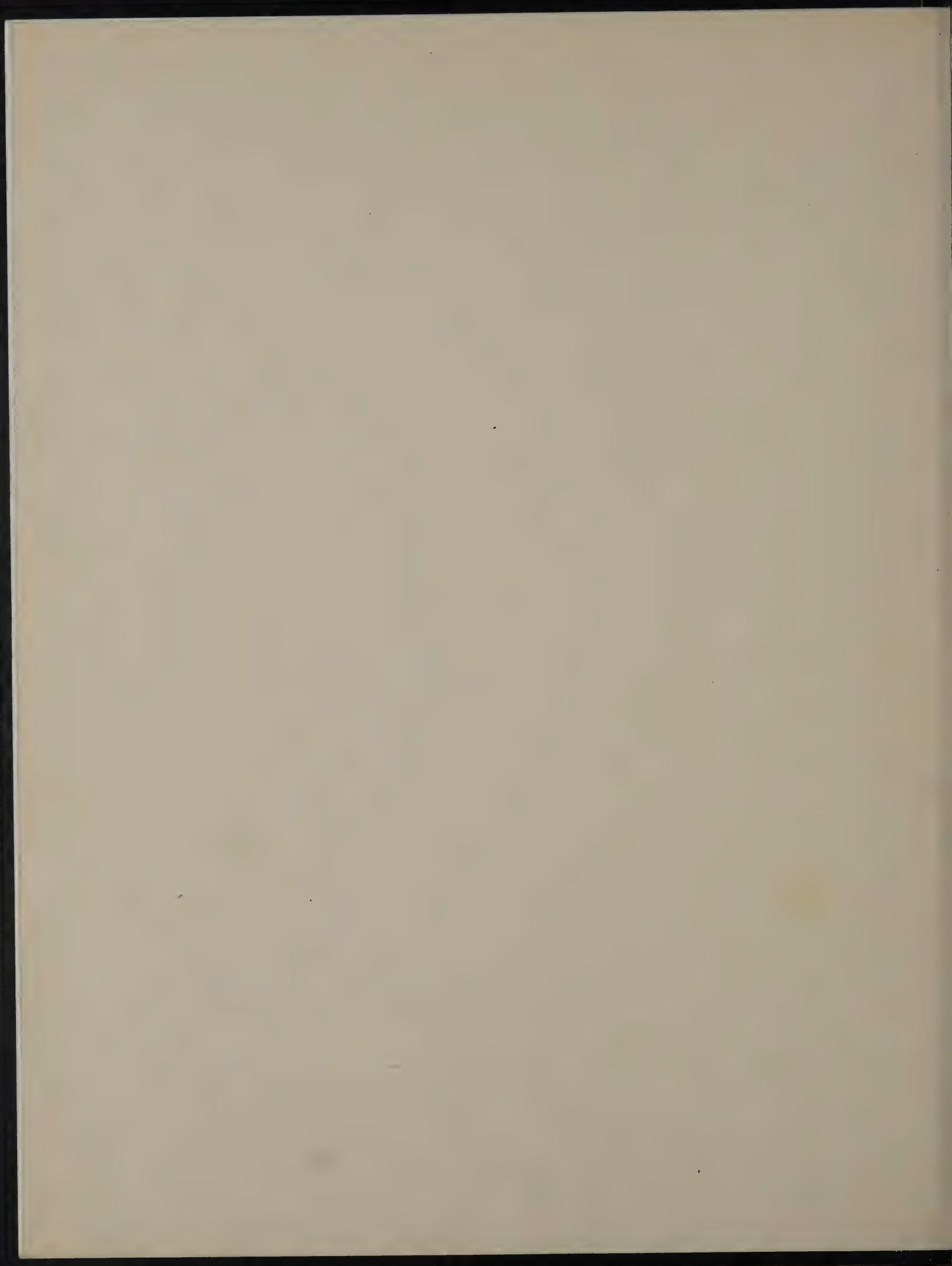
A TRIBUTE

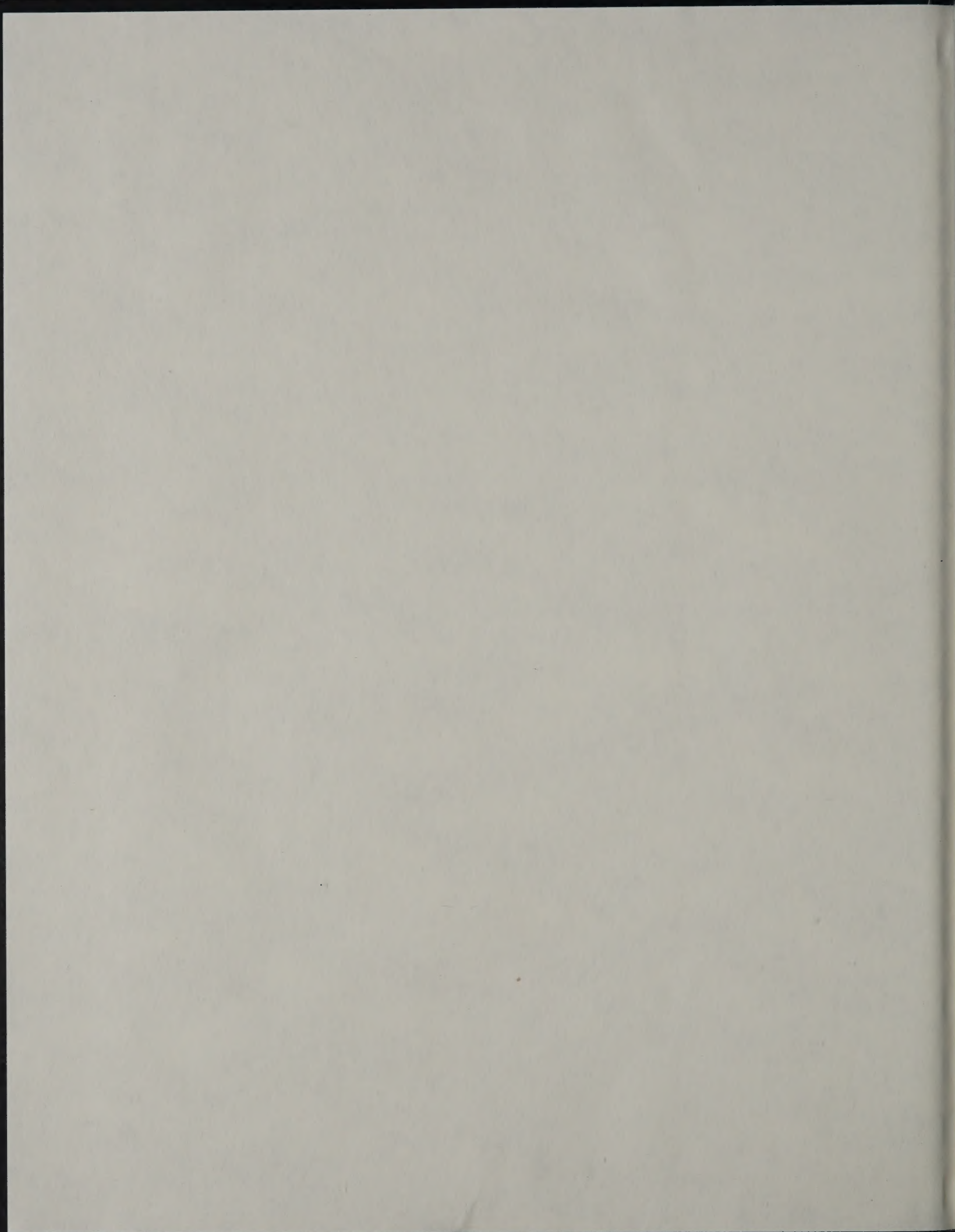
They came from many parts
Those pioneer friends of ours.
They spoke a various language
With but one theme,
To work, to live, and worship
as they pleased.

Through wind, storm and pestilence
They came, they stayed and made
The place, as it is for us to-day.
Many never saw a plane,
Or rode in a bright, new car
Many never heard a radio,
But who can say they didn't dream
of these things.

Their pleasures were few and yet
They took full measure of life in passing;
And if they could talk to-day,
We might hear them say —
"Strangers—on our old home sills
Walk lightly, for we love them still."

— JOSEPHINE URBACH





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